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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who makes the crooked places straight, continue to guide our lawmakers as they seek to walk with wisdom and integrity. May they embrace Your wisdom, which is pure, gentle, considerate, merciful, productive, peaceful, and sincere.

Lord, lead them on a path of integrity that strives to keep a clear conscience before You and humanity. Inspired by Your unconditional love, empower our Senators to achieve a faithfulness that will cause people to glorify Your Name. Provide our legislators with the courage to turn from evil as You do for them more than they can ask or imagine.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, after today, there will be no doubt which party is working to solve the problems in our country and which party is accelerating us toward an unnecessary, avoidable disaster.

Let me say that again without interruption.

Madam President, after today, there will be no doubt—no doubt—about which party in this Chamber is working to solve the problems that face our country and which party is accelerating us toward unnecessary, avoidable disaster.

At the end of last week, I filed cloture on proceeding to the continuing resolution sent to us by the House of Representatives, which, among other things, would prevent a government shutdown and suspend the debt limit so we can pay for our debts incurred during the previous administration.

In a few hours, we will vote on cloture on a motion to proceed to this bill. The Democrats will do the responsible thing, the right thing, and the thing that has been done for decades by both parties and vote yes.

Now, if Republicans follow through with their plans to vote no, they will be on record deliberately sabotaging our country's ability to pay the bills and likely causing the first ever default in American history. The consequences of a default would be, in the words of Secretary Yellen, "catastrophic."

The best case scenario is—the best case under this awful situation is—that our country would fall into another recession, potentially erasing all the progress we have made to pull ourselves out of the COVID crisis. That is if we are lucky. Otherwise, one anal-

ysis warned that default could hurt Americans for generations—for generations. Interest costs would be higher and not go down very quickly, and that has huge effects on so many different people, and that is only one of the effects of default.

So I want my Republican colleagues to think carefully about the practical consequences of what they are doing. A default means, quite simply, the government cannot pay its bills. It means that suddenly the government is presented with unimaginable options. Do they tell seniors they won't get their Social Security checks, or veterans that they won't see their benefits, or tell our military that they won't be getting paid?

And the consequences on Main Street would be equally severe. A default would very likely send markets crashing and interest rates skyrocketing, making it harder for small businesses to make ends meet, for homeowners and renters to pay the bills, and for consumers to keep our economy going.

All of the consequences—or so many of the consequences—can be boiled down into three frightening numbers: 6 million, 9, \$15 trillion—6 million jobs lost, 9 percent unemployment, \$15 trillion in squandered household wealth. Let me say that again. Those are devastating numbers on so many households throughout America, just about every household. That is 6 million jobs lost, 9 percent unemployment, \$15 trillion in squandered household wealth.

Yes, that is what we are potentially looking at if Republicans get their irresponsible and reckless way. None of this needs to happen—none of it. The only reason we are here and the only reason this is even a possibility is because Republicans are making this a possibility by preventing the government from paying its bills. It is an unhinged position to take, one that not long ago only the most radical elements of the Republican Party would have embraced.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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There is no scenario on God's green Earth where it should be worth risking millions of jobs, trillions in household wealth, people's Social Security checks, veterans' benefits, and another recession, just to score a short-term, meaningless political point. That is what Republicans seem fixated on doing.

Now, there is a very simple step we can take today to guarantee the government won't default and won't shut down. Both sides can come together to vote yes on today's vote and vote to pass the continuing resolution. Just as Democrats worked in a bipartisan fashion under the Trump administration, Republicans must now step up to the plate. To do otherwise is the height of recklessness and irresponsibility.

Republicans say they don't want to see a government shutdown. They say they don't want to see our government default on our debt. Then, they should vote yes. It is plain and simple. It is very clear. There is no obfuscation here—crystal clear. Voting yes means avoiding default and avoiding a government shutdown. Voting no says: Let's risk it. Let's risk it.

By choosing to block today's resolution, Republicans are intentionally making default more likely. By blocking an extension of the debt limit, Republicans will solidify themselves for a long time as the party of default.

I cannot emphasize that this isn't just another political game. We are facing a parade of horrors that will hurt every single American in this country. And it is important to remember that today's vote will also advance a number of priorities besides just funding the government and avoiding default, as important as those are. It would provide desperately needed emergency funding for millions of people affected by natural disasters from this summer, including hurricanes, wildfires, and flooding across Tennessee, Kentucky, and Virginia. It will provide billions to help resettle Afghan refugees who risked their lives helping our troops abroad. Both sides claim they support these priorities. So the easy answer is to vote yes later today.

Being elected to office means sometimes you have to do things to rise above partisan politics. It means we have an obligation to work together when our country faces an acute crisis. Tearing the barn down is easy. Building it up, preserving it, and keeping it standing year after year takes hard work and cooperation. And, at the end of the day, the only thing that matters in this Chamber is how its Members vote.

Rest assured, Democrats will vote today to do the right thing. The American people will be watching whether or not our Republican colleagues choose to vote in favor of preserving our full faith and credit or vote in favor of an unprecedented default.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND DELIVERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5305, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 137, H.R. 5305, a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

VACCINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I am glad to share that, a few minutes ago, I received a booster vaccination for COVID-19. All throughout the pandemic, I have followed the best advice from experts and especially from my own healthcare providers. It was an easy decision to receive a booster.

I am a survivor of childhood polio from before vaccines—before vaccines eradicated that disease here in our country and around the world now. So I have been a lifelong champion of vaccinations.

Mountains of evidence tell us these shots are safe, effective, and dramatically shrink the odds of severe disease or death from COVID. Like I have been saying for months, these safe and effective vaccines are the way to defend ourselves and our families from this terrible virus. They are also how we stay on offense against COVID as a country. All Americans should speak with their doctors and get vaccinated.

ECONOMY

Madam President, now, on a completely different matter, it is not unusual for a President to have a rough spell. Every administration faces a stretch of time where nothing seems to go their way. But what we are witnessing today is entirely different.

President Biden has not been dealt a bad hand by forces outside his control. This White House is not sailing through some unavoidable patch of choppy water. No, the Democrats have steered our country straight into a storm of serious crises all of their own making.

On issue after issue, Americans are hurting because of specific policy

choices that Democrats have made over the objections of people who actually knew better. Democrats did not inherit most of the painful inflation that is hammering working families. Their decisions have fueled it. Even liberal economists warned the President that runaway liberal spending could send costs soaring—soaring—for the middle class. Now working Americans are paying dearly at the grocery store, at the gas station, and practically everywhere that matters to families.

And what are Democrats doing today? Putting together yet another reckless taxing-and-spending spree behind closed doors that would make inflation even worse.

Now, President Biden did not inherit humiliation in Afghanistan either; he deliberately chose that as well. The Biden administration's own experts warned the White House that a reckless withdrawal would embolden terrorists and harm our ability to gather intelligence that keeps us safe. But the President clung to his made-up deadline, handed huge momentum to the Taliban and their terrorist friends, and broke his explicit promise to leave no American behind who wanted out. As one former Democratic Member of Congress said last week, "The way the administration executed that withdrawal last week has been an utter and abject disaster."

Democrats did not inherit this border crisis either. This security nightmare and human tragedy is yet another direct result of their own policies. President Biden and his allies spent 2 years campaigning on the concept of Big Government giveaways to people here illegally. Then they took office and began dismantling enforcement on the border. So what do they expect? Wave after wave of vulnerable people have been lured into hellish conditions by the mirage the Democrats have set up—cruelty masquerading as compassion. Untold thousands of people have simply been released into our country with what amounts to a polite invitation to show up—show up—for a hearing. Even before the Biden surge, only about half of individuals actually showed up.

One self-created crisis after another from our unified Democratic Party government. The latest additions are their confusion about how to fund the government and raise the debt ceiling. For more than 2 months now, Senate Republicans have been completely clear about how this process will play out, so let me make it abundantly clear one more time.

We will support a clean continuing resolution that will prevent a government shutdown, get disaster relief to Louisiana, help properly vetted Afghan refugees who put themselves on the line for America, and support the Iron Dome assistance for our ally Israel. We will not provide Republican votes for raising the debt limit.

As we speak, Democrats are behind closed doors, assembling a multitrillion-dollar reckless taxing-and-spending spree. There is no chance Republicans will help lift Democrats' credit limit so they can immediately steamroll through a socialist binge that will hurt families and help China.

There is no particular tradition that the minority will always vote for debt limit hikes during united government. When Republicans had unified control in the early 2000s, then-Senators Biden and Schumer voted no on a debt limit increase and made the party in power handle it on their own—exactly the situation we are in now. The roles were reversed. Bipartisanship is not a light switch—a light switch—that Democrats get to flip on when they need to borrow money and switch off when they want to spend money.

The debt suspension that expired in August covered all the debt that had been accumulated to that point. This is an argument about the future. Democrats want to use this temporary pandemic as a Trojan horse for permanent socialism. They have all but said so. And that is what millions and millions of Americans elected 50 Republican Senators to fight against.

For 10 weeks now—10 weeks—Democrats have known what kind of government funding legislation could pass the Senate and what kind would fail. Republicans are not rooting for a shutdown or debt limit breach. We have given the united Democratic government total clarity about how each can be avoided. Republicans have explained exactly what kind of continuing resolution can pass the Senate with our support.

Late last week, the House Democratic leader publicly said House Democrats are ready to swallow whatever CR the Senate can send them. So the House is ready. Senate Republicans are ready. We could have a bipartisan vote to fund the government today if not for the odd tactics of the Senate Democratic leader.

Before we vote this afternoon, I will ask consent to strike the partisan CR that is dead on arrival and instead have the Senate vote on a clean continuing resolution that could pass this Chamber easily. We will see if Washington Democrats actually want to govern or whether they want to add the prospect of a government shutdown to the list of inflation, Afghanistan, the border, and all the other national crises that are the direct results of their own decisions.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JANUARY 6

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, you remember the day—you will never for-

get it—January 6. Here we were in this Chamber in the process of certifying the electoral college votes. It was a pretty solemn occasion because this happens once every 4 years. We have documents coming from the States telling us what happened in the election of last year for President of the United States. It is our job to make sure that those reports are documented and that the ordinary process of the democracy proceeds.

This January 6 was not an ordinary day by any means. Before we set about our task here in the Senate and the House, the President of the United States, Donald Trump, held a rally, claiming that, in fact, he didn't lose the election, that he won the last election, and he alleged all sorts of fraud and misconduct on the part of Democrats and others that resulted in this faulty report that somehow or another he had lost the election.

Well, his crowd got so fired up that they decided to march on the Capitol as we were counting the electoral college ballots. I can remember it well. Vice President Pence was sitting where you were, I say to the Presiding Officer. We were going through the regular process, and it was a little after 2 o'clock in the afternoon. All of a sudden, that door opened over there, and people came in in suits I had never seen before and literally yanked the Vice President off the podium and pulled him out that door.

It was only a minute or two later that a member of the Capitol Police—the men and women who guard us and guard the visitors to this Capitol—a member of the Capitol Police stood where you are sitting and reported to us that there was a demonstration outside and that we should remain in this Chamber, in this Senate Chamber, because they were going to make it a safe room in the Capitol. At that time, I noticed staff people were being brought in and lined up along the back of the room itself.

It wasn't 10 minutes later until the same member of the Capitol Police stood up and said: Change in plans; everybody leave as quickly as possible. And we all did, filing out toward the back of the room, every Member of the Senate. Luckily, the Parliamentarian or some other office decided to grab the boxes with the electoral college votes in them to preserve this important piece of history from possible mob action.

As we were filing out of the Capitol, I couldn't help but look out the window and see the mobs coming on the Capitol, converging on the Capitol, carrying Trump signs. We went to a safe location and waited it out and later that evening resumed our activities on the floor of the Senate, counted the votes, and made it official, with the Vice President present.

It was an important part of history. You would think that would be enough of an embarrassment to President Donald Trump that he would drop his

claims that the election was stolen. He has done just the opposite. He has intensified these false, malicious claims that somehow or another the vote was rigged or stolen, whatever his term might be—a fraud on the public—despite clear evidence to the contrary.

He pointed to a number of States that he said proved his point, where he just could not have lost—Donald Trump could not have lost these States—so clearly, he argued, something happened there that was criminal or wrong, and an investigation would show it.

Well, one of those States was Arizona. Joe Biden carried Arizona by roughly 10,500 votes. Forty-five thousand Biden votes came from Maricopa County, so it was obviously crucial to his win. So the Republicans in Arizona decided they were going to zero in on Maricopa County and prove once and for all that Donald Trump didn't lose that county by 45,000 votes. Well, they went to great lengths to do it.

First, they gathered all their right-wing groups and Trump's defenders and raised \$5.7 million in donations. Then they hired a group with the unlikely name—I am looking for it here; something to do with ninjas. I am sure it will pop up. Oh, Cyber Ninjas. This group has no experience analyzing an election. Yet they turned over all the ballots from Maricopa County to them to recount.

Well, they pursued many bizarre theories, one of which I think was promulgated by the ever-reliable Rudy Giuliani that somehow or another there were bamboo fibers found in these election ballots, and those were an indication of wrongdoing and can connect the conspiracy maybe even to international sources.

The Cyber Ninjas rolled up their sleeves, pulled in the boxes of ballots, and started their count. They were determined to prove, once and for all, that the result that was announced that Biden carried the county by 45,000 votes was wrong. And they proved it. Through all their hard work and all the money that was spent, it turns out the draft report from the company, Cyber Ninjas, found that there were 99 additional votes for Joe Biden, rather than the amount presented by the 261 fewer votes for Donald Trump in Maricopa County, just the opposite of what they had predicted.

Well, you would think that President Trump would at least be quiet or maybe even acknowledge that he was wrong. Come on, you remember him. Here is what he said in a statement after the review was announced. He said the review "has uncovered significant and undeniable evidence of FRAUD! Until we know how and why this happened, our Elections will never be secure."

He just won't quit. And the problem, of course, is that so many Americans are buying it, primarily Republicans, increasing their numbers, believing his Big Lie about the election being stolen

from him. God forbid this man could lose an election. Who would ever dream of that? He can't think of the possibility. And they are joining him in the chorus, despite hard evidence that proves time and time and time again that he lost.

It was a spirited election—Joe Biden and Donald Trump—and when it was all over, the American people made their choice. They accepted the reality of change. Now it is time for Donald Trump and his followers to do the same.

I don't know if the cyber ninja turtles, or whoever they are, are going to go at it again in some other State, pick another State to do some investigation. More power to them. They are building up the majority for Joe Biden—just the opposite of what was predicted.

DEBT CEILING

Madam President, I would like to speak on another topic, if I might.

We are going to have a vote later this afternoon, and it is not an ordinary vote in the U.S. Senate. We are voting on what is called the debt ceiling.

The debt ceiling is the acknowledgment of the government's debt. It looks backward, and it says: Over a period of time since we last expanded the size of the debt, we have incurred more debt, and, therefore, we have to acknowledge the new debt ceiling in order to establish that the United States is going to pay that debt—which, of course, we want a reputation for paying just bills. And, in this situation, these were bills for debts incurred during the Trump administration.

It should be a rather routine thing. In fact, one might make the argument that the Senate and the House should not even be involved in this acknowledgement; it is simple accounting and should be announced to the American people. But for the time being, it is subject to a vote in the House and the Senate, and that is where the problems arise.

Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader from Kentucky, is hoping that the American public will not clearly understand the gravity and the importance of this vote. He has announced that he is going to boycott this vote and not a single Republican will vote to acknowledge the true debt of the United States of America.

I don't know if he will be able to keep his word and whether every Republican Senator will march blindly behind him. They did once before, under the American Rescue Plan, when Joe Biden proposed that we do the things necessary to bring this pandemic to an end and get America back on its feet. Not a single Republican would vote for it.

We promised cash payment of \$1,400 for every family in America. It was in the American Rescue Plan. The Republicans all voted against it. We passed the money, billions of dollars, so that we could actually administer the COVID vaccine across America. We had discovered the vaccines, but, of course,

there is a huge infrastructure needed to make sure that they are safely administered to the American people. That was in the American Rescue Plan, and all the Republicans voted against it.

There was also a provision in there to deal with helping businesses reopen their doors. Saturday night in Chicago, I spoke to a restaurateur who told me about problems he had faced and the debts he incurred to get back on his feet. The American Rescue Plan helped Americans. And every Republican voted against it. Not a single Republican Member in the House or the Senate would support it.

We are getting the same threats that the Republicans will walk out of the room. Resolving the debt ceiling is necessary to pay for decisions made. This is debt incurred during the Trump administration. And lest you think that this fiscally conservative Donald Trump was a good Republican when it came to debt, think again. The greatest increase in America's national debt in any 4-year period in our history, a 36-percent increase.

Let me repeat. Raising the debt ceiling has nothing to do with future spending. We are paying Donald Trump's bills. We are acknowledging what was done by the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats—what was spent and now has to be repaid. This is about paying what we already owe, and it is also about averting an economic catastrophe.

As a candidate, Donald Trump used to brag that he was "king of debt." How about that. "King of debt" is what he says. Well, he proved it. His reckless spending as President, with America's credit card, added nearly \$8 trillion to our national debt—\$8 trillion. This is a third of the entire debt. It was incurred during the Trump administration.

And now the Republicans, his party, refuse to acknowledge that debt and the fact that we have to pay it back. He racked up all that debt in 4 years. Two trillion of that \$8 trillion in Trump debt, incidentally, was spent on tax cuts for the richest people in America. Yes, that was the Trump plan, supported by the same Republicans who today are saying they won't even cast a vote to acknowledge that they did it, and it added to the deficit.

By 2027, 83 percent of the benefits of the Trump tax cuts, supported by Senator MCCONNELL and the Republicans, will go exclusively to the top 1 percent of wage earners in America. Republican Senators passed those tax cuts all on their own through reconciliation.

I will tell you this. I didn't vote for it. No Democrats voted for it. What we are doing today is paying the piper, acknowledging that this is a legitimate debt of this country. We can change policy going forward, but since we enacted those tax cuts 4 years ago, it has added to the national debt. And we acknowledge it today, and Senator MCCONNELL and the Republicans refuse to acknowledge it.

During Trump's one term in office, the national debt increased by almost 36 percent—4 years: 36 percent. Our Republican colleagues voted to raise the Federal debt ceiling once and to suspend it twice during Donald Trump. And the Democrats stood with them because we understood that this is just basic requirement 101 of constitutional government. We shared the responsibility not because we agreed with his policies—we don't—but because we understood that defaulting on the national debt could cause real damage to America.

What would the costs of defaulting on our debt be exactly? According to some economists, we would see an estimated \$15 trillion of household wealth wiped out, 6 million jobs lost, and a 9-percent unemployment rate. Every last American would feel the pain. If it continued for any period of time, it would threaten retirement funds, Social Security checks, even job security.

Mark Zandi, a pretty well-respected economist with Moody's, warned that a default on America's debt would trigger "financial Armageddon," threatening America's status as a world reserve currency, all because the Republicans refuse to acknowledge debt they voted for and created under Republican President Donald Trump.

Even toying with the notion of default would have severe consequences. Back in 2011, House Republicans initially refused to raise the debt limit. America's credit rating was downgraded because of it. The result: higher borrowing costs and confidence in American leadership shaken globally.

We will see if every Republican will fall under the dictates of Senator MCCONNELL when it comes to defaulting on America's debt for the first time, and we will also see what the reaction to that is going to be.

This measure we are going to vote on in about 2 hours suspends the debt ceiling to avoid default by the government, and it keeps the government open, just that basic. After all that we have been through and what we are going through with the pandemic, how can the Republicans play with this deadly economic strategy?

Without a continuing resolution, the Federal Government will shut down in less than 4 days. With the Delta variant still taking 2,000 American lives a day, this is no time to shut down the Federal Government. With victims of hurricanes and floods and wildfires desperate for help, this is not the time to close the doors of the Agencies that can help them. With our economy still recovering, now is not the time to damage it, intentionally, for political reasons.

Right now, our No. 1 priority is keeping our Nation's economy on a path to recovery and helping families through a difficult time. We need to come together and fund the government. That is our fundamental responsibility. We need to pay our bills on time. We need to provide financial relief to Americans

who are battling disasters, whether they are in California or Oregon, Louisiana or Illinois, or Hawaii. And we need to grow our economy for future generations, increasing funding for childcare and healthcare and help for working families.

President Biden's Build Back Better plan is a proven investment in our economic future. It includes the largest middle-class tax cut in history.

Do you know what the Republicans call the largest middle-class tax cut in history? Socialism. Socialism. I heard Senator MCCONNELL say it: They just want to pursue socialism. The largest tax cut for working families and children in American history.

Unlike President Trump's tax giveaway to the rich, which Senator MCCONNELL voted for and doesn't want to pay for, the Build Back Better plan will have the corporations pay their fair share.

No one—this is a promise by President Biden to be held to—no one who makes \$400,000 a year or less will pay more in taxes. He has been pretty clear on that, hasn't he? So this notion that we are going through some socialist tax-and-spend scheme here just isn't true.

Seven months after he signed his tax cut into law, Donald Trump told the effervescent Sean Hannity of FOX News that: "When [the Trump tax cut] kicks in, we'll start to pay off the debt like it's water"—Donald Trump. That was a con.

Now the bills are coming due, and the Republicans are racing for the exits. It is time to stop this ruse and fraud on the American people. We need to pay our bills, act responsibly, and actually help working families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I rise this afternoon to bring further attention to the growing humanitarian and national security crisis we see at our southern border.

President Biden's and Vice President HARRIS's handling of the southern border has been as incompetent as it has been inhumane. This is not a partisan view: their own special envoy to Haiti has resigned in protest.

This administration is in denial; it is in denial about the scope of this crisis. Migrant crossings into the United States have already reached historic levels and, as I speak, thousands continue to arrive along our U.S.-Mexico border.

Since taking office, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have

shirked responsibility for this crisis by placing blame on the historic levels of illegal crossing on everything from COVID-19 to climate change, to former President Trump. They are hoping Americans will forget that President Biden's first order of business was to repeal nearly every immigration policy of the previous administration.

The Biden administration's talking points say our borders are closed, but their actions indicate just the opposite. More than 12,000 of the Haitians who gathered under the bridge in Del Rio over the past week have been released into the country.

This is not a new policy—tens of thousands of migrants who have illegally crossed our border have been released since President Biden took office. Many were released without a court date and given nothing more than a list of ICE offices around the country, with instructions to report within 60 days.

Unsurprisingly, it was reported in July that nearly 87 percent of 50,000 individuals released without a court date fail to report as directed. This is a clear message that, if you make it to the United States, you will be allowed to stay without facing repercussions. This encourages families to make the dangerous trek north and entrust their safety to dangerous drug cartels at the risk of being murdered, assaulted, or trafficked because the reward is worth the risk.

The Haitian refugees who recently began arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border are evidence of that mindset. They believed the administration's actions, not their words. They watched as thousands were allowed to stay in the country, and they gambled that they, too, would get the same treatment; that after living nearly a decade in countries like Brazil and Chile, now is the time to come.

Nearly 9 months into the Biden Presidency, it is irrefutable that this administration's policies are fueling, are increasing the crisis both for our security and the humanity of people.

The historic levels of crossing at the southern border have not only created this humanitarian crisis and put an incredible strain on our immigration system, but have seriously compromised our national security.

In April, a few months ago, I visited the border and had the opportunity to speak with Agents of the FBI and DEA to hear firsthand how the crisis has affected their operations and the challenges it has created for them in carrying out their mission to disrupt transnational criminal organizations and apprehend major drug traffickers.

The cartels that operate in Central America are sophisticated, adaptable, and ruthless. Not only do they take advantage of individuals attempting the trek to our southern border by forcing them to pay thousands of dollars to fund their operations and subject them to abuse, rape, and murder, they use these individuals to their strategic ad-

vantage. They will send thousands of individuals across the border at the same time in an attempt to overwhelm while cartels bring drugs and guns undetected.

Just today, the DEA issued a public safety alert to warn against the alarming increase in counterfeit prescription pills containing fentanyl and meth that are being trafficked in the United States. Thus far this year, more than 9.5 million counterfeit pills have been seized—a rate that puts 2021 on a path to more seizures than the last 3 years combined. This is no coincidence.

The administration's decision to continue ignoring this humanitarian and national security crisis is allowing a horrible situation to get even worse. Actions always speak louder than words. The Biden administration must take immediate action to secure the border and enforce our immigration laws.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I have noticed over the past few months that my Democratic colleagues have developed a habit of explaining away the anger of the citizens of this country. There is anger, and there is frustration. And what they do is to do a little turn in the conversation and make it the cause of the citizens.

It is kind of blaming it on them instead of looking at themselves as Members of the Senate and saying, "You know, what could we do better?"

What I have seen is my colleagues on the other side of the aisle demand to know what is wrong with the American people; how could they not be on board with President Biden's so-called transformative agenda—change it all? Why won't they stand by and let us spend the country into economic oblivion while businesses fail, Main Streets see shuttered businesses, and once-safe border communities are being turned into war zones?

You see, what they are really doing is trying to force the American people to adjust and abandon their principles—things that they have long believed, the founding first principles of this country. They want them to abandon that—abandon their expectations, and then accommodate the miserable failure that is Joe Biden's first few months in office. He has been wrong about most all of it.

I honestly believe that many of the Democratic leaders have it wrong on this. The people aren't the ones who need to adjust. That burden belongs to the Democratic leadership—in the Senate, in the House, in the White House.

No matter how they try to dress it up or change it or smile, they are fast-tracking the road to socialism.

The anger bubbling to the surface didn't come from out of nowhere. Contrary to popular belief, outrage is not our natural state, no. What you are seeing is beyond buyer's remorse or even buyer's fear. It is buyer's anger, righteous anger, at what they see happening; and it is the culmination of almost a year's worth of confusion, fear, frustration at the Biden administration for how they have failed to lead—weak leadership.

You see, the American people aren't accustomed to watching their leaders intentionally—intentionally—jeopardize our security and prosperity on such a fundamental level. They are looking at all that has fallen apart and realizing that things are the way they are because President Biden and the Democratic leadership wants it to be this way. This is intentional.

On day one, President Biden halted construction of the border wall and left those crossings wide open to drug traffickers, to sex traffickers, human traffickers, and gangs—basically hung out the “y'all come, you're welcome” sign, opening that southern border.

They did this knowing that hundreds of thousands of migrants were already on their way from Mexico and Central America. One hundred fifty countries this year have crossed that border illegally, and that—the vast majority of them would pay the cartels for their passage north by serving as drug mules, as prostitutes. What is being done to women and children is really awful. It is a humanitarian crisis.

If they wanted to, Biden and the Democrats could put themselves between us and that threat. They could support strong immigration policies that protect refugees and also secure the border. It is possible, but they have refused to do it. Instead, they are funneling crowds of unvetted migrants into American communities and enabling the cartels to traffic women and children across State lines with impunity.

How dare they? How dare they traffic like they are trafficking?

Ignoring this problem isn't humanitarianism. It is not anti-racism. It is dangerous and exposes an appalling lack of wisdom on the part of the President; the Vice President, who is supposed to be the border czar; and their advisers.

This administration seems to believe that threats to our national security will evaporate if we ignore them: Just don't think about it; don't talk about it; what you are seeing, you are really not seeing.

What they are doing is creating policy in a bubble, which works well for grad seminars but fails miserably when there are lives on the line.

The Biden administration failed in Afghanistan. Now, we can argue for the next decade—and I am sure we will—about lessons learned, but here is what

the American people see: The Biden administration gave a terrorist organization the benefit of the doubt.

That is right. They trusted the words of the Taliban above the words of the commanders on the ground. The commanders on the ground warned that such an abrupt withdrawal would end in chaos and casualties.

But you know what? They wanted to be out by September 11. They wanted that date circled on the calendar. Joe Biden wanted to be the President who ended the war, but all he has done is emboldened the terrorists. And the war on terror continues. It continues. He ended nothing with the war on terror.

We came out of Afghanistan, but now the families of 13 American service-members are left to grieve, while State Department officials make absurd claims about the power of diplomacy and the Taliban's role in regional politics, all the while ignoring the allies and the partners they abandoned. They still don't know how many Americans, how many of our SIV holders, applicants, their families are left behind enemy lines.

And the people? The people in Tennessee whom I talk with when I go home every weekend—they are watching this. They are astounded, and they cannot believe what they are seeing the Democratic Party do.

There is no reason, no accountability, no incentive to trust that the self-proclaimed “adults in the room” know what is best.

Especially when it comes to the economy, Tennesseans can see a socialist agenda pulling the strings. Right now, they are staring down the barrel of a \$3.5 trillion budget that the Democrats have weaponized against personal responsibility and decentralized control. Just seeing that pricetag was bad enough, and now we are hearing the pricetag is growing.

But, now, Tennesseans know that the Democrats don't even care how much this costs nor do they care that, if all goes to plan, American businesses will carry a heavier tax burden than communist China. That is correct. The American businesses will have a higher tax burden than those in communist China. Living life as we know it will be too expensive for most of us to afford.

No serious person could stand here on the floor of the Senate and pretend to be shocked at the level of anger and frustration that we are seeing back home. I talk to people every single week who feel betrayed—betrayed—by this administration. They feel unsafe.

Many of the Tennesseans I speak to every day who voted for President Biden wish they had made another choice in the voting booth because, yes, they voted for the President, but they did not vote for this. They did not vote for the Afghanistan withdrawal and the manner we came out. They did not vote to embolden the communist Chinese. They did not vote for open borders. They did not vote for inflation that is skyrocketing, taxes—\$2 trillion

of taxes coming their way. No, they did not vote for that, and this is what makes them angry.

I hear their anger with every telephone townhall, with every conversation. I hear their frustration. They are angry at the White House officials who use the full force of the U.S. Government to cover up their mistakes and try to make it sound like it is the problem of the people, because they know they have messed up.

And the people have every right to be angry. The things we do in this Chamber don't exist in a bubble. They have real world consequences for real people who have real lives that they are living every day, and they know that they are beginning to live these lives in a more dangerous setting: crime on the streets, crime on the rise, open borders, unvetted migrants coming to their communities, COVID, measles outbreaks.

They are angry. They have “buyer's anger.” I like to say, as I talk to women: Security moms are back. They are back in full force. They are back because they don't like the crime in the streets. They want safe communities. They want their children safe. They want their children who are going to college this fall to be safe. They are upset with the Afghanistan withdrawal, with the continuation of the war on terror, and that their children are going to have to go refight this.

They are angry, and we hear their anger, and we know it is time for Members in this Chamber to stop playing politics with how much spending you can force out the door and address these problems that moms and dads and Americans across this country are faced with each and every day.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, later this evening, the Democrat-controlled Senate will hold a vote on another dead-on-arrival bill.

This time, though, it isn't just a messaging bill designed to put on a show for their far left. This is legislation that is actually critical to the stability of our government, our economy, and the livelihood of millions of public servants.

For months now, Republicans have made clear, though, we will not split the ticket when it comes to Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending spree. We will not vote to raise the debt limit just so Democrats can spend another \$3.5 trillion and add that to the American people's credit card in a purely partisan exercise.

If this was ever a secret, it was the worst kept secret in Washington, DC.

But our Democratic colleagues simply can't resist a chance to virtue signal even if it wastes valuable floor time here in the Senate.

We have seen this before. In fact, Democrats' designed-to-fail agenda practically dominated the Senate's calendar this summer. There was a bill to exploit the cause of gender pay fairness in order to line the pockets of trial lawyers. There was legislation to overhaul America's election system and hand Democrats a permanent governing majority. The latest version of this bill, which will also fail, will come up for a vote in a matter of days.

Senator SCHUMER has even forecasted votes on other bills that were so unpopular, as it turned out, that they didn't even make it to the Senate floor. There was one that would have eroded American's Second Amendment rights and another that would punish schools and hospitals that refused to comply with "woke" social norms.

Now, this isn't an agenda to better the lives of the American people or protect the country from global threats. It is pandering, pure and simple. While pandering to their radical base is the focus of the Democrat-led Senate, there are a number of threats this body should actually address. The most obvious is the need to prevent another government shutdown.

Let's not forget the Biden border crisis on our southern border. For the entirety of President Biden's term of office, Democrats have refused to acknowledge any sort of problem at all with our southern border because, apparently, they don't actually believe in borders or apparently care little about the drugs smuggled into this country that took the lives of 90,000 Americans last year alone. Even as hundreds of thousands of migrants poured across our border every month, Democrats showed no concern or didn't even acknowledge that there was a problem.

Then things came to a head. Finally, the news media began to pay attention to Del Rio. Within a matter of days, 30,000 migrants—nearly 30,000, primarily from Haiti—crossed the border and set up camp under the International Bridge in Del Rio, TX. Early statements indicated that the administration would make heavy use of title 42, which is a public health title designed to protect the American people against the spread of COVID-19. Early statements indicated the administration would make use of that public health title and expedited removal to return these individuals to their home countries. It sounded like a pretty remarkably sensible strategy.

But now that the migrant camp has been cleared, we know that is not what happened. Only about 2,000 migrants were returned to Haiti, a small percentage of the nearly 30,000 who crossed into Del Rio. Some 8,000 voluntarily returned to Mexico, but I expect many of those migrants and their families will make another attempt to reenter the United States. Another 5,000 of

that number are currently being processed by the Department of Homeland Security.

In a television appearance this weekend, Secretary Mayorkas said 10 to 12,000 migrants, the ones that were huddled under the bridge in Del Rio, TX—10 to 12,000 migrants—have been released into the United States, untested for COVID-19, unvaccinated, when, in fact, the Biden administration has said that the public health title 42 was going to be used to exclude them.

Well, those numbers are likely to grow in the coming days because, frankly, all the Biden administration was concerned about, apparently, was the bad optics of 30,000 migrants huddled under a border bridge in Del Rio, TX.

What the Biden administration did, as opposed to what they said they were going to do, is an open invitation for more migrants to illegally come to the United States. Individuals who are trying to decide whether to make the dangerous journey to our borders are reading the same headlines and watching the same TV news shows that we are, and many of them are simply calling their relatives in the United States saying: Should I still come?

And they are being given the green light because of the failure of the Biden administration to do anything to deter or to sway or to add costs to people illegally entering the United States. In so doing, the Biden administration is sending an unmistakable message to more migrants to come to the United States because, if you do, there is a good chance you will be released into the American countryside and disappear into that great American heartland. Migrants will ignore what President Biden is saying because they know what his administration is doing or, in this case, not doing, which is not securing the borders.

Unless something changes, the Haitian migration and the crisis in Del Rio that fixated the attention of the news media and all America—unless something changes from a policy perspective, this is going to happen again.

We already know that border crossings are at their highest levels in 20 years. Now the administration is apparently opening the door to even more illegal migration. And the smuggling organizations—the organized crime syndicates that profit from charging these migrants thousands of dollars to get them into the country—will continue to get rich because of the administration's unwillingness to enforce our immigration laws.

Well, Congress has a duty to take action and address this crisis before it grows even more out of control. Democrats cannot ignore the responsibility to enforce our laws and secure our borders just because it upsets part of their political base.

There are a lot of things we need to do in the Senate, and this parade of dead-on-arrival bills does nothing to move us in the right direction. Clearly,

our Democratic colleagues are finding their newfound majority—they are having a lot of trouble using this power to actually govern. They have a wide gulf between the so-called moderates of their party—what they can stomach and what the progressive leftwing demands.

They are up against the government funding deadline in just the next few days that could risk a shutdown during what is already tough economic times for many Americans because of the pandemic. They are trying to use a partisan budgetary process to pass trillions of dollars of more deficit-spending while also trying to get another trillion-dollar infrastructure bill signed into law. To top things off, they have fanned the flames of the crisis at our border, struggled to defend an indefensible, disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, and offended America's oldest ally. This is not what governing looks like.

There is no spotlight on a party like there is when you hold all the cards—when you control the White House, the House, and the Senate. The American people know who is responsible for the status quo. When the majority party all but refuses to work with the minority party, that spotlight grows even brighter.

I hope—but frankly I don't expect—that our Democrats will reevaluate the wisdom of this parade of failed bills and spend a little bit of time working with Republicans on legislation that could actually pass and make a positive difference for our country.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, in recent days, much has been said about Afghanistan. I spoke about it last time on September 15, and most of my colleagues have spoken on the very same subject. I come to speak more about it. Today, I will look at it from a very different angle. I am going to look at it from the angle that you see through the Inspector General lens.

The sudden collapse of the Afghan Government and the Afghan Army threw me right back to years of oversight work and audits conducted by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction. Now, the terminology "Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction" goes by the acronym SIGAR. That person goes by the name of his real name, Mr. John Sopko.

SIGAR, in its reports, pulled no punches. Report after report over the years exposed and documented grim allegations of weak security, systemic

corruption, and waste—waste of taxpayers' dollars. Those core problems were brushed aside and allowed to eat away at the foundation of our commitment. In other words, our leaders were not heeding the warnings from the Inspector General, Mr. John Sopko.

An inability to solve these problems prompted SIGAR to send warning signals. Those warning signals said our mission in Afghanistan was failing. And that is not a recent conclusion; that is things he stated over and over, over the years. This was all to the detriment of U.S. foreign policy and our national security—the fact that most of SIGAR's advice fell on deaf ears. SIGAR was like a lone wolf, howling out there in the wilderness.

As the final scene of the Afghan tragedy unfolded, as we all saw on television at the Kabul Airport, in those circumstances, President Biden cut and run. He assigned blame squarely on the Afghans' shoulders, but that is not the whole truth. Just pick up any SIGAR report; it is plain to see in those reports that something was wrong. We were the chief architect and financier for the lion's share of the construction in Afghanistan that collapsed. If we are to learn from this experience, we need to begin by looking in the mirror.

SIGAR's "lessons learned reports" clearly indicate that security against the Taliban threat was a top priority. According to SIGAR, security was never achieved. Based on repeated assessments of the army's readiness, SIGAR concluded that the Afghan Army lacked the capability to independently defend the country against internal and external threats, contrary to President Biden's hailing the capability of the Afghan military to preserve the country and defend it from the Taliban.

And without security, nation building was a nonstarter. Now we question whether or not nation building ought to be part of the policy, but it seemed to be too often.

When coupled with the systemic corruption I just mentioned—and SIGAR characterized that as an "existential threat . . . that eroded army readiness"—prospects for survival of the government and the army of Afghans doing their job were very dim.

Against advice that I have given previous administrations, the President announced the date certain for pulling out the U.S. military. And, by the way, that wasn't wise because you never tell your enemies what your plans are.

So within days, the Taliban eliminated the Afghan Army with hardly a struggle. The Taliban then seized U.S. military assets.

The Biden administration left Americans and Afghan allies behind enemy lines. Adding tragedy to the deeply flawed military exit, a U.S. drone strike killed 10 civilians.

There is clear and present urgency for accountability. Do my fellow Senators pay appropriate attention to the work of the IGs throughout govern-

ment? Maybe not often enough, but surely listening to SIGAR, not enough of us listened to him.

Afghanistan's collapse underscores the merits of SIGAR's work out of three dozen confirmed IGs. IGs do important work, and their work should be considered greatly. And the fact that we ignored SIGAR's work in Afghanistan is a tragedy, particularly when the people in the executive branch of government ignored it.

SIGAR was created to watchdog the huge sums of money pouring into Afghanistan. Mr. Sopko, the IG, did his job well. He issued aggressive, hard-hitting reports, documenting egregious waste and blatant corruption on both sides—our side and the Afghan side. Large sums of money simply disappeared.

In a recent report, SIGAR served up a classic case of waste and corruption, and he did it on a silver platter. It is symptomatic of the rot that derailed our efforts in Afghanistan.

One example involved the purchase of 20 refurbished Italian G222 medium-lift aircraft for the Afghan Air Force. They added \$549 million to the taxpayers' tab. These aircraft were needed but unsupportable and inoperable.

The squandering on this project was matched by others exposed by SIGAR, like the 64,000 square-foot surge command center that was built for \$34 million but never needed and never occupied.

The G222 aircraft was just another notch in Uncle Sam's belt of wasteful spending. Those planes were thrown in the junk heap because of crooked mismanagement—and that was on our side.

The Air Force general who led the program while on Active Duty, and then as vice president for the company selling the Italian aircraft, allegedly violated criminal conflict-of-interest statutes.

SIGAR wanted to pursue criminal charges, but the Department of Justice refused to prosecute. The Department of Justice turned a blind eye to the general's alleged misconduct. Let that sink in.

A half-billion taxpayer dollars went up in smoke, and no one was held to account. At a minimum, this reckless spending demanded disciplinary action. With little or no accountability, it was easy for crooks to line their pockets with schemes like the G222 aircraft.

Now, SIGAR exposed that. It wasn't prosecuted, but SIGAR nailed quite a few. Investigations resulted in 160 criminal convictions. Corruption was found on both sides.

The convicted included 42 Afghans, 58 U.S. military personnel, 49 U.S. contractors, and 11 U.S. Government personnel and citizens.

Some money was recovered, but obviously you don't recover all of it. However, in such a target-rich environment, I suspect that SIGAR's investigators barely scratched the surface.

Unfortunately, while SIGAR's finger was stuck in the dike, Uncle Sam kept

spending money—kept the spigot wide open. Some estimate that over \$2 trillion flowed through the pipe to a government and an army known by SIGAR to be riddled with systemic corruption. We tolerated it, and the money kept flowing.

What happened in Afghanistan boils down to the fundamental principle of good government. Oversight is critical to accountability. SIGAR has more work to do. SIGAR will need to provide a full accounting for all the captured and abandoned weapons and equipment.

You see a figure of \$85 billion of that stuff left over there for the Taliban to use for whatever they want to use it for—hopefully, never against the United States.

The IG will need to track down unexpended dollars in the pipeline, estimated at \$6½ billion or more, so those tax dollars can be returned to the Treasury or allocated for other legitimate and needed purposes.

The IG will need to investigate allegations that high officials fled with hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars in cash. And we are told that one of those was the former President. The most recent President of Afghanistan got away with millions and millions of dollars.

Now, if true, this would be more proof of systemic corruption that was the country's undoing. Stolen tax dollars should be recovered.

The House Defense authorization bill already instructs SIGAR to address these and other issues. I call on the Senate Armed Services Committee to adopt those same measures and authorize funding needed to finish the job by SIGAR.

Congress needs to know why SIGAR's alarm bells on poor security, corruption, and waste were largely ignored. They were unmistakable indicators of the impending collapse that we now know has happened to the country of Afghanistan—to the Taliban.

Once the decision was made to pull out U.S. troops in early 2020, preparations for evacuations were mandatory. So then why did our President make such a panicked and haphazard exit? Did no one see the warnings coming and the signs that showed what would happen? Did the military fail to develop an orderly exit strategy and evacuation plan, as alleged by Secretary Blinken?

If true, who is responsible for that blunder? A congressional autopsy might help us avoid the same mistakes in the future. It might help us put forward a better foot to strengthen strategic alliances.

As painful as it may be, we must never give up trying to learn from our past mistakes. We still face threats from terrorist groups with the same ideology as the 9/11 attackers have. And you know where they got their training—in Afghanistan.

We still have troops in many countries combating terrorism in partnership with local forces. We can't afford

to sweep mistakes under the rug and just move on and forget about it.

Without some soul searching, America risks further humiliation like we have just witnessed, which will only embolden our would-be adversaries.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

(The remarks of Mr. TUBERVILLE pertaining to the introduction of S. 2857 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND
DELIVERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, I had hoped to be standing here today making a statement in support of the bill before us. For weeks, Chairman LEAHY and I, along with chairs and ranking members of the subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee, worked cooperatively to produce a bipartisan package—a package that includes a continuing resolution to keep the government operating, as well as, two, emergency supplemental funding for disaster relief, and, three, to support those who needed rescuing following the President's hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Bipartisan support for anything is a rare commodity around here. Senator LEAHY and I know that. But we have experienced bipartisan support with each other in the past, and it works. It is something that should be embraced and, I hope, emulated.

We nearly got our work done, as appropriators so often do, but larger forces intervened. We are not by ourselves here. Leadership on the other side of the aisle intervened to pursue partisanship over comity and sabotage over constructive engagement by, I believe, unnecessarily forcing the debt limit increase into what would otherwise be a bipartisan package.

The Republican leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has been clear. We will not support any effort to increase the debt limit. The road to success was clearly marked; nevertheless, my Democratic colleagues chose to drive this package right into a ditch rather than embrace a bipartisan path forward.

This is not complicated. There is a simple solution. Take up and pass a bill that was negotiated on a bipartisan, bicameral basis, which has support on both sides of the aisle—a bill that, one, keeps the government open, which we all want to do; two, provides much needed disaster assistance to storm-ravaged areas of our country; and three, delivers the aid necessary to address the Afghanistan withdrawal crisis. That is S. 2789, the Shelby-McConnell bill—who is here.

If we don't take that path, I believe my colleagues on the other side of aisle owe the American people some answers here. For example, why did they—the Democrats—why did they choose to un-

dermine a bipartisan effort to provide the American people with desperately needed disaster relief? Yes. And why did they choose to ignore the immediate needs of Afghans who deserve our support? Why are they threatening to shut down the government now that we have an alternative that would avoid that outcome?

This does not have to happen. We know Thursday is the deadline. Instead of accepting victory, my Democratic colleagues, I believe, are embracing defeat and creating a new crisis that we all ought to avoid.

It is a perilous path they are putting the country on, but it still is not too late. Today is Monday. We have a few days left. The majority can reverse course and put us back on track by immediately passing the Shelby-McConnell bill. It will keep the government open and provide much needed emergency funding. This is the bill we should be considering. I urge the majority to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I know the speeches on the other side have gone a little longer than we expected, so I ask unanimous consent that I have time to complete my statement on the continuing resolution and national debt, which will be relatively short.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, the Senate will hold a vote to allow for the consideration of a temporary, stopgap measure to keep the government funded through December 3. The measure also provides \$28 billion to help States ravaged by hurricanes and wildfires, like Hurricane Ida that recently tore through both the South and the Northeast. It provides critical assistance to Afghan refugees who fled the Taliban in the wake of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. Finally, it will raise the debt ceiling to December 2022, including the \$8 billion of debt that was incurred under President Trump.

Now, this shouldn't even be a close call. A government shutdown, if we had one, would needlessly cost the taxpayers billions of dollars—billions of dollars—throughout our country. It would throw hundreds of thousands of people out of work. A government default would be catastrophic. And that is all completely avoidable.

Yet, in the wake of the deadliest pandemic our country has seen in over 100 years and in the wake of natural disasters that have left a trail of death and destruction, the Republican leader and his party have decided to play a dangerous game of political brinksmanship. They have chosen—and it was a free choice on their part—to withhold their votes and prevent this bill from even being debated, threatening to shut down the U.S. Government—the U.S. Government—and have

it default on its debts for the first time in the history of our great country.

I think that is the height of irresponsibility and callousness. It is also pretty hypocritical, because who pays the price for this political brinksmanship? Not the Republican leadership careening us towards disaster but the American people. A government shutdown has serious consequences for people just trying to make ends meet—support their families, live their lives.

Important food and nutrition programs—SNAP and WIC—would dry up in a matter of days, leaving millions of Americans in the wealthiest Nation on Earth without the help they need to put food on the table.

Also, I look at our Nation's schools that are struggling to reopen after a pandemic. Assistance to those schools would be delayed.

Then we look at our public health response to the mental health and substance abuse crisis. That would be severely hampered. And we cannot forget that we have an epidemic of drug overdoses in this country happening alongside the COVID pandemic.

The Small Business Administration that provides so much assistance to our Nation's small businesses—I believe, as I said many times on this floor, that small businesses are the backbone of the American economy—would be forced to close the door.

More than half of the CDC would be furloughed just weeks after COVID deaths passed the grim toll of the 1918 pandemic in our own country and right before the start of the annual flu season.

These are just a few examples of the needless pain a government shutdown would cause.

As painful as a government shutdown would be, the consequences of defaulting on our debt for the first time, the first time in American history—that is even worse. The government of the wealthiest country in the world would not have funds to operate, meet its obligations, and pay its debts.

The last time we even toyed with such an irresponsible idea, the credit rating of the U.S. Government was downgraded for the first time in history, and, boy, that cost every American, directly or indirectly, money. It certainly hurt businesses all over our country.

If we were to default on our debt, then the women and men of the military would be handed IOUs in exchange for their bravery defending our country; Social Security checks that people earned and rely on to survive would stop; and the economy would take such a hit from which it would be hard to recover. The stock market would no doubt take a dive and then put millions of Americans' lifetime savings at risk. All of this as we are still recovering economically from the last 18 months of a global pandemic. And for what? So Republicans can make campaign commercials claiming they are the party of fiscal responsibility and do that with a straight face? Come on.

While President Trump was in office, U.S. debt increased by \$8 trillion—\$5½ trillion alone since we last raised the debt ceiling under President Trump. Incidentally, on that one, because it was so important to the country, there was bipartisan support for it.

Republicans' irresponsible tax cut for the wealthiest Americans is partly to blame, but Democrats still supported the Trump administration when it needed to raise the debt limit to account for the resulting bills because, if we did otherwise, everybody in this country was going to be hurt. It would have been irresponsible. It would have been dangerous for the U.S. economy.

The argument made by my colleagues that Republicans will not support raising the debt limit because they are not going to support the tax-and-spend policies of the Democrats—well, it is probably just as well that many people wear masks these days because it hides their smiles, because that argument does not hold water. The bills they falsely claim to be socialist bogeymen have not even passed Congress, let alone been signed into law, and they are going to be fully paid for. In 2017, my friend the Republican leader chose not to take that path when Republicans passed a massive tax cut—massive tax cut—for the wealthiest in this country, and that was not paid for.

Raising the debt limit is about meeting obligations our country has already made, and many of those obligations were made under President Trump. So playing political games with so much on the line—that is as irresponsible as it is irrational.

The bill before us today provides a path out of this made-in-Washington crisis—a path that could help all of our country. It can fund the government through December 3. It can raise the debt limit through December 2022. It could provide relief to communities all over our country that have been devastated by natural disasters and provide assistance for the brave Afghans who supported our mission through two decades of war.

So we really have an off-ramp from this crisis. I wish my colleagues would take it. Vote to advance this bill. Stave off an unnecessary crisis. Put the American people first, ahead of the party. That is actually, I think, a pretty simple choice.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators CASSIDY, KENNEDY, and I be allowed to complete our remarks prior to the vote.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—SHELBY—
MCCONNELL AMENDMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. So, Madam President, the Democratic leader has scheduled a vote today that he knows will fail. For more than 2 months, since

July, Republicans have been clear about where we stand: We are willing to work together to keep the government open. We are not willing to help Democrats raise the debt ceiling while they write a reckless taxing-and-spending spree of historic proportions behind closed doors.

Democrats control the entire government—the Senate, the House, the White House. They intend to sideline Republicans and go it alone to slam American families with historic tax hikes and borrowing. So they will need to raise the debt limit on a partisan basis as well. And they have known that for 2 months now—2 months.

Just like then-Senator Biden and Senator SCHUMER voted no on a debt limit increase and made a unified Republican government handle it alone back in the early 2000s, this has happened before.

Earlier this year, Senate Democrats requested and won additional flexibility to make policy on party lines. They have every single tool they need to do their job.

The Democratic leader, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the United States have had 10 weeks—10—to plan for funding the government and addressing the debt limit. There never had to be one ounce of drama to any of this. Any drama here is self-created by the Democrats. Republicans continue to try to help our Democratic friends avoid multiple new crises of their own making.

On the debt limit, Democrats have all the time and all the tools to do what they have to do, and I have explained in detail how they need to proceed. Because Democrats ignored our warning back in July, they must amend their previous budget resolution with debt limit instructions and proceed through a fast-track process.

On the more urgent issue, government funding, Senator SHELBY and I have a clean CR that could pass today. Our bill tracks with bipartisan talks. It would keep the government open, fund disaster relief for Louisiana, and fund defensive assistance for our ally Israel and their Iron Dome, and it drops the debt limit language that Democrats have known is a nonstarter for more than 2 months.

The Senate could advance this bill tonight. If Democrats will let us, we could take a bipartisan step tonight toward guaranteeing there will be no government shutdown. If the Democratic leader lets us, the Senate could advance government funding legislation with a big bipartisan vote yet tonight.

The House Democratic majority leader has said they will take up whatever CR the Senate sends them. The House is ready. Senate Republicans are ready. The only holdout is the Senate Democratic leader and his partisan tactics.

So, in just a moment, I will ask consent that Democrats forget about the vote they know will fail and instead let the Senate vote on a bill that can actually pass.

It is up to the Democrats. We can either move this legislation forward tonight or we can have a show vote, which they know will fail, and inch closer toward another crisis of their own making.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise supporting my colleague's proposal.

This proposal provides disaster supplemental assistance relief for Southwest and Southeast Louisiana; it extends the National Flood Insurance Program; it funds the government; and it restores funding for Israel's Iron Dome.

We are 3 days away from a government shutdown for one reason: Democrats control Washington.

A clean vote on disaster relief and a continuing resolution to fund the government—legislation filed by Senators MCCONNELL and SHELBY—passes today with overwhelming bipartisan support. We know that. But my Democratic colleagues are holding this critical funding set not just to fund the government but funding set to benefit victims of disasters in my State and elsewhere hostage to fund their planned tax-and-spend extravaganza.

Disaster victims need disaster relief. It is 1 month since Hurricane Ida, 6 months from unprecedented ice storms, 12 months since Hurricanes Laura and Delta wreaked havoc on Southwest Louisiana. Disaster assistance is long overdue. This bill gets it done.

And while we are recovering from 2-years' worth of storms, we can't allow the National Flood Insurance Program to expire. Many policyholders, especially in Louisiana, are still recovering from hurricane damage. Government shouldn't pull the rug of insurance from beneath them. It is critical the program is extended so homeowners are covered if there is another storm. This proposal extends NFIP. It also provides disaster relief.

The proposal is good for Louisiana. It is good for the country. I urge my colleagues to support this proposal.

With that, I yield.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I rise in support of Senator MCCONNELL's legislation.

On August 27, 2020, just 13 months ago, Hurricane Laura hit Louisiana. Forty-five days later, Hurricane Delta hit Louisiana. Nineteen days after that, Hurricane Zeta hit Louisiana. We got a little bit of a break. Four months after that, we were part of the historic winter storm, about which we have all read. And then 3 months after that, we had a historic rainfall event in Louisiana, up to 12 inches, unrelated to a hurricane. Three months after that, Hurricane Ida hit Louisiana. And 2 weeks later, Hurricane Nicholas hit Louisiana.

Every one of these storms was over 100 miles per hour sustained winds. The

wind for Hurricane Ida was clocked at its highest at 185 miles per hour. If you add up all the damages, it is about \$150 billion in 13 months.

Now, other States were impacted by these storms, but Louisiana took it full in the face. This was as brutal a blow as nature has inflicted on an American State in modern history. We will be coughing up bones for years, and this legislation is going to help us recover.

In fact, this legislation does every single thing that my colleagues Senator CASSIDY and Senator MCCONNELL talked about that my Democratic friends want to do, everything: keeps government open, maintains flood insurance, gives disaster relief not just to Louisiana but to my friends in the Northeast part of our country, to my friends on the west coast. It does help my State, Southwest, Southeast, North Louisiana, but we are not the only ones.

Senator MCCONNELL's legislation does everything except one thing, one thing: increasing the debt ceiling that Senator SCHUMER can do in a matter of days on his own.

Why are we fighting over this? You know, nature abhors a moron. It is moronic for us to be having this fight when it can be so easily solved.

Everything in Senator MCCONNELL's legislation can easily pass this body with 70 votes, and we know it. And then Senator SCHUMER can come right behind by simply amending the budget resolution, and our problems are solved. Nature abhors a moron. Let's don't be moronic.

I yield back to Senator MCCONNELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 137, H.R. 5305. I further ask that the first amendment in order be the Shelby-McConnell amendment to the text of which is identical to Calendar No. 135, S. 2789; that there be 2 hours of debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, and upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Shelby-McConnell amendment be agreed to; finally, upon disposition of the Shelby-McConnell amendment, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with a 60-affirmative-vote threshold required for passage.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. I have listened to this debate. I have also listened to my two dear friends from Louisiana speak about the disaster recovery, and I support disaster recovery for that. But I would just point out that on the proposal of the Republican leader, there would be no funds in the Treasury to pay for disaster recovery or for writing a check to Israel for the Iron Dome because it doesn't raise the debt limit.

And the substitute offered by my friend, introduced by my dear friend the vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator SHELBY, does not solve the problem in front of us. It doesn't address the looming debt crisis facing our Nation, so it ignores that that exists.

Now, perhaps my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to wash their hands of this. They can. Much of that debt was incurred under a Republican President and under a Republican-controlled Senate and debt racked up by irresponsible tax cuts championed by the Republican Party for the wealthiest of Americans. And, yes, debt also occurred in a bipartisan fashion to deal with multiple crises that faced the Nation: Disaster assistance in the wake of hurricanes and wildfires keep getting worse every year because we don't combat climate change; COVID relief to keep this country from careening head first into economic disaster in the wake of a worldwide pandemic; historic levels of support and investment in our Nation's military and our men and women in uniform.

And to try to put this all at the feet of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda, a yet-unpassed reconciliation bill that is not the law—it hasn't been passed—is ridiculous. We are talking about debt we already incurred, not spending in the future.

And as my Republican colleagues know, we expect to fully pay for those investments. They may not like how we are going to offset the spending, but that is what the legislative process is for, to debate them. At least we are willing to pay for the bills we incur, which is more than could be said for the Republicans when they pushed a massive tax cut for the wealthy that was not paid for.

So let's stop this political brinksmanship. Let's secure the full faith and credit of the United States. Let's pass and increase the debt limit. To do otherwise puts our country and our economy at risk.

The substitute also scales back the assistance provided to Afghan refugees that was included in the House-passed bill.

Now, I was pleased when we reached bipartisan and bicameral agreement of \$6.3 billion in the House-passed bill for much needed assistance for the brave Afghans who supported our mission through two decades of war. It is our duty; it is our obligation to support them.

But the substitute bill they are seeking to pass would shorten the length of time we provide assistance to thousands of Afghan women and men who fled to the United States to escape the wrath of the Taliban—food, medical care, housing, basic things they need.

The bill also eliminates their right to obtain a REAL ID-compliant U.S. driver's license, yet we want them to go out and seek jobs.

How are they going to do that if they can't drive?

There shouldn't even be a debate. I could give a dozen more reasons, but I know people are ready to vote, so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 137, H.R. 5305, a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Patrick J. Leahy, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Angus S. King, Jr., Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Patty Murray, Thomas R. Carper, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5305, a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 385 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Hassan	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Cotton	Hawley
Blackburn	Cramer	Hoeven
Blunt	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Boozman	Cruz	Inhofe
Braun	Daines	Johnson
Burr	Ernst	Kennedy
Capito	Fischer	Lankford
Cassidy	Graham	Lee
Collins	Grassley	Lummis
Cornyn	Hagerty	Marshall

McConnell	Rounds	Thune
Moran	Rubio	Tillis
Murkowski	Schumer	Toomey
Paul	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Portman	Scott (SC)	Wicker
Risch	Shelby	Young
Romney	Sullivan	

NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein Sasse

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 50.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. I enter a motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, I want to make sure everyone understands exactly what has happened here on the Senate floor. The Republican Party has now become the party of default, the party that says America doesn't pay its debts.

Our country is staring down the barrel of two totally Republican-manufactured disasters—a government shutdown and a first-ever default on the national debt. The impacts of both would gravely harm every single American in this country. Republicans would let the country default for the first time in history.

A few moments ago, the Senate had an opportunity to begin solving these problems right away. Democrats did their part and voted yes, but Senate Republicans meanwhile voted to drive our country straight toward a government shutdown and the first default in our country's history.

Let me be clear. What the Republicans in the Senate did tonight is not normal. This isn't your typical Washington practice, and it shouldn't be treated as such. It has far more severe consequences than the typical political cat fight. Republicans know the consequences of their obstruction. They know a default would likely create a recession. They know that middle-class families will suffer immensely. They have heard the same warnings that we have. And by many calculations, the Republican default will raise the deficit by more than the American Rescue Plan, and yet Republicans still obstructed tonight.

It is one of the most reckless, one of the most irresponsible votes I have seen take place in the Senate, and it should send a signal to every family, small business, market watcher about who in this Chamber is in favor of endangering the economic stability of our country and who isn't.

Let me repeat: The Republican Party has solidified itself as the party of default, and it will be the American people who pay the price. Social Security checks, Medicare benefits, veterans benefits, small business—all this and more are now on the chopping block because Senate Republicans are play-

ing games with the full faith and credit of the United States.

Now, despite Republican intransigence, this matter cannot be set aside for even a moment. Before the vote, I changed my vote from yes to no in order to reserve the option on additional action on the House-passed legislation.

Keeping the government open and preventing a default is vital to our country's future, and we will be taking further action to prevent this from happening this week.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 264.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 264, Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 159.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 159, Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie K. Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 27, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO ATOMIC VETERANS

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I draw attention to and recognize the immense service and commitment to our country of our Nation's Atomic Veterans. I also extend special recognition and gratitude to Idahoan and Atomic Veteran Noelan "Mac" McCormack for his service to our country and his efforts to ensure his fellow veterans receive appreciation and recognition for their service and sacrifices.

Mac McCormack of Coeur d'Alene, ID, served in the U.S. Marine Corps Test Unit #1, a unit active from 1954–1957 involved in specialized tactics, including warfare as it related to nuclear weapons. An Atomic Veteran is a veteran who, as part of his or her military service, participated in nuclear testing between 1945 and 1962, served in the U.S. military forces in or around Hiroshima and Nagasaki through mid-1946, or was held a prisoner of war in or near Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

Earlier this year, when designating July 16, 2021, as National Atomic Veterans Day, President Biden noted the considerable challenges Atomic Veterans have faced, "Atomic Veterans

served our Nation with distinction, but their service came at a great cost. Many developed health conditions due to radiation exposure, yet because they were not able to discuss the nature of their service, they were unable to seek medical care or disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their illnesses." Decades after their service, in 1996, Congress repealed the Nuclear Radiation and Secrecy Agreement Act, which enabled Atomic Veterans to seek services and share their experiences. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides information to connect Atomic Veterans with medical services and compensation. However, the National Association of Atomic Veterans, Inc., notes, "Currently, there are approximately 195,000 Atomic Veterans across America who either do not know their oath-of-secrecy has been rescinded, and who are not aware of the potential monetary benefits due them for (service connected) radiation induced illnesses."

While the best healthcare and other services in the world can never reverse what many Atomic Veterans and their families have endured, we owe it to America's servicemembers who have answered the call to duty to ensure access to high-quality services and resources to support their commitment to our country. As part of this effort, I cosponsored S.565, the Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act, which would reclassify veterans who participated in the cleanup of the Enewetak Atoll as radiation-exposed veterans, making them eligible for the same benefits afforded to those covered by Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, RECA. Work also continues on bipartisan legislation to extend and expand RECA eligibility to those in Idaho and other States who have suffered from cancers related to fallout from nuclear weapons testing during the Cold War period of the 1950s and 1960s. As work continues on these and other efforts to support veterans, I join in honoring Atomic Veterans whose service has been a central part of our national defense. I hope recognition can also draw attention to available services and resources for Atomic Veterans.

In 1983, then-President Ronald Reagan urged fellow citizens to join him in appreciation of the service of Atomic Veterans he characterized as, "those patriotic Americans who through their participation in these tests helped lead the United States to the forefront of technology in defense of our great Nation and the freedoms we as Americans hold so dear."

Thank you, Mac McCormack, and your fellow Atomic Veterans, for your immeasurable and in many ways unrepayable service. I hope you know how deeply grateful we as a nation are for your patriotism.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER GEORGE POULOS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the Very Reverend Father George Poulos, a deeply admired community leader, who turns 100 on September 30.

Born in Massachusetts to Greek immigrants in 1921, Father George joined the priesthood in 1943. He began his studies in Connecticut at the Holy Cross Seminary in Pomfret. Upon graduating in 1948 from the Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline, MA, Father George served as a pastor of the Holy Trinity Church in Norwich, CT. Then, in 1956, he was assigned to the Church of the Archangels in Stamford, CT. In 2009, after over six decades of remarkable service, Father George retired. He still plays an active role at the Church of the Archangels, serving as pastor emeritus.

I have been privileged to know Father George as a leader of courage and conviction, whose great work has touched countless lives. His vision and dedication enabled the Church of the Archangels to build an amazing, 11th Century Byzantine-style Greek Orthodox Church, which was consecrated in 1959. Later, in 1976, the church campus opened the Greek Cultural Center, which offered athletic amenities for church youth and banquet facilities for the entire community. In 1995, this center became the Stamford Athletic Club, providing invaluable services to the public.

Father George oversaw the creation of Ionian Village, a summer camp youth program in Greece. Since 1970, it has hosted thousands of Greek-American campers, giving them the opportunity to further explore their cultural history, religious roots, and language. Father George also established "Byzantine Fellowship" in America, and in his 30-year tenure as executive director, helped sponsor Greek cultural events in the United States and pilgrimages.

Father George's tireless dedication to helping others has earned him enormous respect and affection, as well as official recognition. He was appointed as vicar general of the churches in Connecticut by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, and in 2017, he received an honorary doctorate of divinity from Holy Cross Seminary. Father George is a prolific author and is actively involved in community service, as chaplain of the Stamford Fire Department, vice president of the local Council of Churches and Synagogues, and a major in the U.S. Air Force Civil Patrol.

I am honored to know Father George and his family for many years—indeed, decades. I can attest firsthand to his wonderful generosity and loyalty as a friend and his love for humanity, as well as the warm and welcoming spirit of his congregants. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Very Reverend Father George Poulos, his wife, Christine, their five sons, and their six grandchildren on this milestone of Father George's 100th birthday.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1970

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, on Saturday, October 9, 2021, nearly 200 members of the class of 1970 of Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, MD, will hold their 50th class reunion, an event delayed a year by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is my pleasure to congratulate them on this special occasion.

This distinguished class of 1970 from Walt Whitman has an exemplary history of contributions to society and to advancing social justice. As children, a number of class members from the Bannockburn neighborhood in Bethesda joined a contingent from Howard University for the first multiracial civil rights protest in America, picketing segregated Glen Echo Amusement Park daily for 22 weeks in 1960 after Blacks were arrested for riding its carousel. As the result of these and other efforts, the policy was changed, and the park reopened to all the next year. And this year, those members of the class of 1970 will return to Glen Echo during their 50th reunion to ride that same carousel on its 100th anniversary.

The class of 1970 came of age at an important time in our Nation's history, a period of great change and dramatic events. When they were 8 years old in 1961, they saw President John F. Kennedy call for all citizens to commit to work for the common good. They saw the beginning of space exploration, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the arrival of the Beatles, the passage by the U.S. Congress of landmark bills on voting rights and fair housing, the Vietnam war, and the tragedies of the assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Senator Robert Kennedy.

This social awareness led to lifelong commitment and activism for so many in this remarkable class. In protest of the Vietnam war, many participated in the National Moratorium Against the War. In the dramatic March Against Death, dozens of members of the class carried the names of fallen soldiers whose families could not travel here to join the protest. As the first class of students subject to a draft lottery conducted by the Selective Service System, many classmates participated in efforts to abolish military conscription in the U.S. and in support of lowering the voting age from 21 to 18.

In 1970, when members of this class were in their senior year, WWHS was named the No. 1 public high school in the Nation by "U.S. News & World Report," which also recently named Whitman the best high school in Maryland. Whitman's first principal, Dr. Daryl Shaw, called the class of 1970 "the most challenging" he ever had, in light of their frequent questioning of authority and vigorous advocacy for social change. Profound events that changed

the Nation happened during their high school years. The first moon landing and Woodstock happened only 27 days apart. And just 5 weeks before graduation, in a reflection of the profound tension in our Nation, 13 unarmed students were shot at Kent State, four fatally.

Some in their generation warned, "Don't trust anyone over 30." Now, as the class of 1970 approaches 70, its members can look back on 50 years of lives well lived. This class can boast of significant achievement, as its members include, among many other graduates of great distinction, elected officials, physicians, lawyers, real estate developers, orchestra conductors, musicians, magazine publishers, and at least one juggler.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our very best wishes and congratulations to the Walt Whitman High School class of 1970 as its members gather—1 year late—for their 50th reunion.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE BARN

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is my honor to pay tribute to Stephanie Barna, who is retiring October 15 after more than 30 years of Federal service. A dedicated public servant, a fierce advocate for our Nation's men and women in uniform, and an astute legal mind, the Senate Committee on Armed Services has been extremely fortunate to have Ms. Barna as Republican General Counsel for the past 3 years.

Ms. Barna joined the Committee on Armed Services in November 2018, after decades of working within the Department of Defense both as a uniformed officer and as a civilian. As a career Senior Executive at the Pentagon, Ms. Barna held critical positions that focused on Total Force management, personnel matters, and improving the lives of our servicemembers and their families. Most recently, she performed the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis. Before that, she served as senior policy adviser to then-Under Secretary of Defense Robert Wilkie; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; performed the duties of Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; and Deputy General Counsel for Operations and Personnel in the Office of the Army General Counsel.

Ms. Barna began her public service career in 1989 as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. Ultimately, she retired from the U.S. Army Reserve in 2011 in the grade of colonel. She is also qualified as an Army Jumpmaster, and if she is willing to jump out of a perfectly safe plane, she is definitely able to work in Congress.

As a member of my staff on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, Ms. Barna played a critical role in the drafting and enactment of the fiscal

year 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization Acts, NDAA. Because of her work and commitment to bipartisan solutions, we successfully enacted the 59th and 60th consecutive NDAA's when many speculated it couldn't be done. I am grateful for her work this year to help usher the fiscal year 2022 NDAA toward the finish line as well. With creativity and tenacity, Ms. Barna shepherded important policy reforms that strengthened national security, improved the management of the Pentagon, and bettered the lives of our servicemembers.

Over her career, Ms. Barna received numerous, well-deserved accolades, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award, the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service, and the Department of the Army Exceptional Civilian Service Award—twice.

Most telling to her leadership, Ms. Barna has never asked for recognition. She is a tireless worker, wholly dedicated to serving her Nation. If you were to look up the definitions of "competent," "capable," and "grace under fire" in the dictionary, I am sure you would see her picture.

Ms. Barna leaves behind a legacy of getting things done, of doing what is good and right, and fulfilling the law to the best of her understanding. Because of her, the Department of Defense operates better, our troops are better cared for, and long-standing institution of the U.S. Senate live on. While she will leave big shoes to fill on the Senate Committee on Armed Services, I wish her very well in her well-earned retirement. For her service, she has my thanks and the thanks of a grateful nation.●

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN MEUSCHKE

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I am honored to recognize Susan Meuschke, executive director of the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence—NCEDSV—who will officially retire on September 30, 2021.

Ms. Meuschke has been a champion for victims of domestic violence and their families for more than three decades. Her career in advocacy and awareness of the problem of family violence in our communities began when she was a volunteer for the Committee to Aid Abused Women in Reno, NV. It was there, while listening to the struggles and the courage of those dealing with family violence, that she found her lifelong passion for helping those in need. Ms. Meuschke then went on to work with NCEDSV for 32 years and was instrumental in developing the organization into a powerful force in the State of Nevada with 10 full-time staff members, a variety of consultants, and offices in both Reno and Las Vegas. Ms. Meuschke is also a founding member of the Nevada Domestic Violence Prevention Council and a former member of the National Coalition Against Domes-

tic Violence Steering Committee. In 2019, Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak proclaimed February 1 as a day in honor of Ms. Meuschke, a fitting tribute for such a remarkable woman.

It has been an honor to work with Ms. Meuschke to help grow domestic violence programs. While I was Nevada's attorney general, I worked closely with Ms. Meuschke to ensure we passed legislation to create dedicated funding for domestic violence programs through fees on marriage licenses. Before her retirement, Ms. Meuschke and NCEDSV were also working on a bill to increase statewide funding for domestic violence services and to create funding for sexual violence services. These efforts reflect her dedication to working across the aisle to build a safer, more caring world for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

During 2020 and the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Meuschke worked hard to ensure that Federal coronavirus relief funding delivered to NCEDSV went to programs aimed at providing education and support to survivors in rural communities. The funding also sought to improve the financial independence of survivors through the Financial Empowerment Microloan program. Ms. Meuschke was crucial in seeing that the funds were distributed equitably to programs that would make the biggest difference in the lives of survivors.

As Ms. Meuschke enters her retirement, I want to make sure her decades of strong advocacy and empowerment are recognized for the important impact they have had in the State of Nevada. First as Nevada's attorney general and now as a U.S. Senator, I have been fortunate to work side-by-side with Ms. Meuschke to support families and make our communities safer. NCEDSV is not only a strong advocate for policies that protect victims but a resource for survivors who are looking for help. Much of its strength can be attributed to Ms. Meuschke's leadership and her unwavering resilience and fortitude to advocate on behalf of all survivors.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 189. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1828. An act to amend the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency who incur qualifying injuries to the brain, to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Department of State who incur similar injuries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5293. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3755. An act to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

H.R. 5323. An act making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today September 27, 2021, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 189. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2021, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1828. An act to amend the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency who incur qualifying injuries to the brain, to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Department of State who incur similar injuries, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2057. A communication from the Officer, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the fiscal year 2019 annual report for the Department's Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2058. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Colum-

bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-172, "Fiscal Year 2021 Revised Local Budget and COVID Relief Adjustment Temporary Act of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2059. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-173, "Fiscal Year 2022 Local Budget Act of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2060. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-162, "Green Finance Authority Board Quorum Temporary Amendment Act of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2061. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-168, "Public Emergency Extension and Eviction and Utility Moratorium Phasing Temporary Amendment Act of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2062. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-169, "Protecting Consumers from Unjust Debt Collection Practices Temporary Amendment Act of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2063. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-170, "Targeted Historic Preservation Assistance Temporary Amendment Act of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2064. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-171, "Recess Reprogramming Temporary Amendment Act of 2021"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2065. A communication from the Deputy Solicitor, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Federal Labor Relations Authority, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2066. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2067. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2068. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting three (3) legislative proposals relative to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seal, the licensing of DHS intellectual property, and reimbursed assistance that DHS provides; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2069. A communication from the Component Regulatory Coordinator, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards: Technical Amendments" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 14, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2070. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2017-011, Section 508-Based Standards in Information and Communication Technology" (RIN9000-AN46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2071. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2016-011, Revision of Limitations on Subcontracting" (RIN9000-AN35) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2072. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2020-012, Scope of Review by Procurement Center Representatives" (RIN9000-AO16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2073. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-07, Technical Amendments" (FAC 2021-07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2074. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2019-004, Good Faith in Small Business Subcontracting" (RIN9000-AN87) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2075. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-07, Introduction" (FAC 2021-07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2076. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Public Assistance Appeals and Arbitrations" (RIN1660-AB00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2077. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2020 annual report relative to the

Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2078. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2079. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's fiscal year 2021 Commercial Activities Inventory and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2080. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2081. A communication from the Chief of the Branch of Conservation, Permits, and Regulations, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2021-22 Season" (RIN1018-BE34) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2082. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, reports from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) relative to tribal crime data collection activities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-2083. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Coordination Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Entrepreneur Program: Automatic Increase of Investment and Revenue Amount Requirements" (RIN1615-AC75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2084. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2085. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Government-Furnished Headstones, Markers, and Medallions; Unmarked Graves" (RIN2900-AQ28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 15, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2086. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) Application Periods in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency" (RIN2900-AR24) received in the Office of the

President of the Senate on September 15, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2087. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Great Lakes Pilotage Rates—2020 Annual Review and Revisions to Methodology" (RIN1625-AC56) (Docket No. USCG-2019-0736) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2088. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Corpus Christi, TX" (RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0603) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2089. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zones; Sabine Pass Channel, Cameron, LA" (RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0120) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2090. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Low Country Splash Open Water Swim, Charleston, SC" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0639) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2091. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Great South Bay, Brightwaters, NY" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0545) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2092. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; St. Mary's River, St. George Creek, Piney Point, MD" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0346) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2093. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Delaware Bay, Lower Township, NJ" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0146) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2094. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Chesapeake Bay, Between Sandy Point and Kent Island, MD" (RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0505) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2095. A communication from the Legal Tech, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Safety Zone, Ferdon Wedding Fire-

works Display, Harbor Springs, MI; Sector Sault Sainte Marie Captain of the Port Zone" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0608) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2096. A communication from the Attorney, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Seagull Bridge, Quinnipiac River, Hamden, CT" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0219) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2097. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Camden Labor Day Fireworks, Camden Harbor; Camden, ME" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0655) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2098. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Monongahela River, Miles 5.8-6.3, Pittsburgh, PA" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0638) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2099. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Explosives arc at Military Ocean Terminal Concord, Suisun Bay, Concord, CA" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0732) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2100. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zones; Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel Expansion Project, Hampton/Norfolk, VA" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0117) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2101. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Patapsco River, Baltimore, MD" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0327) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2102. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Patapsco River, Northwest and Inner Harbors, Baltimore, MD" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0496) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2103. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Lake of the Ozarks, Mile Marker 7, Lake of the Ozarks, MO" (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0597) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2104. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; New York Upper Bay, Pierhead Channel, and Port Jersey Channel, Bayonne, NJ” (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0549) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2105. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Safety Zone; SML Bridge Repairs, Portsmouth, NH” (RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0519) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2106. A communication from the Deputy Chief, Office of Economics and Analytics, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Auction of Flexible-Use Service Licenses in the 3.45–3.55 GHz Band; Notice and Filing Requirements, Minimum Opening Bids, Upfront Payments, and Other Procedures for Auction 110; Bidding in Auction 110 Scheduled to Begin October 5, 2021 (Auction 110 Procedures Public Notice)” (AU Docket No. 21-62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2107. A communication from the Chief of Revenues and Receivables Group, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2021, Report and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking” (MB Docket No. 21-190) (FCC 21-98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2108. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Coastal and Marine Resources Branch, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities: North Slope, Alaska” (RIN1018-BF13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2109. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2110. A communication from the Associate Administrator for Policy, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Certification for Conducting Driver or Vehicle Inspections, Safety Audits, or Investigations” (RIN2126-AA64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2111. A communication from the Managing Director, Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission’s Rules, Concerning Practice and Procedure, Amendment of CORES Registration System; Report and Order” (FCC 21-79) (MD Docket No. 10-234) received in the Of-

fice of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2112. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services - 2021 Update” (Docket No. 542) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2113. A communication from the Deputy Bureau Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Wireline Competition Bureau Finalizes Application Filings, Procedures, Cost Catalog, and Replacement List for the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program Scheduled for August 3, 2021” (RIN3060-AK95) (WC Docket No. 18-89) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2114. A communication from the Assistant Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Call Authentication Trust Anchor, Appeals of the STIR/SHAKEN Governance Authority Token Revocation Decisions” (FCC 21-93) (WC Docket Nos. 17-97 and 21-291) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2115. A communication from the Program Analyst, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “In the Matter of Review of the Commission’s Part 95 Personal Radio Services Rules” (WT Docket No. 10-119) (FCC 21-90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2116. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Television Broadcasting Services; Fredericksburg, Texas” (MB Docket No. 20-299) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2117. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Television Broadcasting Services; Superior and York, Nebraska” (MB Docket No. 21-60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2118. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Television Broadcasting Services; Eagle River, WI” (MB Docket No. 21-157) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2119. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XA999) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2120. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program” (RIN0648-XA883) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2121. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific cod by Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XA961) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2122. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific cod by Catcher/processors Using Trawl Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XA946) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2123. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XA987) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2124. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2021 Management Area 3 Sub-Annual Catch Limit Harvested” (RIN0648-XA993) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2125. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Common Pool Fishery and Other Measures for Fishing Year 2021” (RIN0648-XA979) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2126. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic; 2021–2022 Recreational Fishing Season for Black Sea Bass” (RIN0648-XA938) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September

13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2127. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2021 Re-opening and Subsequent Closure of the Commercial Longline Fishery for South Atlantic Golden Tilefish” (RIN0648-XA921) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2128. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Possession and Trip Limit Increases for the Common Pool Fishery” (RIN0648-XA848) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2129. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Groundfish Fishery by Non-Rockfish Program Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Western and Central Regulatory Area of the GOA” (RIN0648-XA913) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2130. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2021 Red Snapper Recreational For-Hire Fishing Season in the Gulf of Mexico” (RIN0648-XA942) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2131. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Retroactive Quota Transfer from NC to MA” (RIN0648-XA843) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2132. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels using Trawl Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska” (RIN0648-XA805) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2133. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commercial Harvest Closure for the golden tilefish commercial hook-and-line component in the South Atlantic” (RIN0648-XB110) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2134. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries” (RIN0648-XB082) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2135. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Snapper-Grouper Resources of the South Atlantic; 2021 Red Snapper Commercial and Recreational Fishing Seasons” (RIN0648-XB091) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2136. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; 2021 Closure of the Northern Gulf of Maine Scallop Management Area to the Limited Access General Category Fishery” (RIN0648-XB071) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2137. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2021 and 2022 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish” (RIN0648-XY115) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2138. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Pacific Island Fisheries; 2021 U.S. Territorial Longline Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits” (RIN0648-XP014) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2139. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Spiny Dogfish Fishery; Revised 2021 and Projected 2022 Specifications” (RIN0648-XX069) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2140. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Monkfish Fishery; 2021 Monkfish Specifications” (RIN0648-XX070) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2141. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Blueline Tilefish Fishery; 2021 Spec-

ifications” (RIN0648-XX071) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2142. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Fishery; Final 2021 Atlantic Deep-Sea Red Crab Specifications” (RIN0648-XX067) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2143. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fisheries; Final 2021 and Projected 2022–2026 Fishing Quotas” (RIN0648-XX065) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2144. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 560” ((RIN2120-AA63) (Docket No. 31381)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2145. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters; Amendment 39-21572” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0188)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2146. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by eurocopter France); Amendment 39-21643” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0175)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2147. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters (Type Certificate Previously Held by eurocopter France); Amendment 39-21634” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0340)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2148. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-21585” ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0193)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2149. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of

EC-2171. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31378) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2172. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31377)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2173. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31380)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2174. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31379)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2175. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31387)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2176. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31384)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2177. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31385)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2178. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31382)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2179. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of V-25, V-27, V-494, V-108, and T-257 in the Vicinity of Santa Rosa, CA CORRECTION" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0642)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2180. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Federal Airways Amber 15 (A-15), V-444, J-502, J-511, and Extension of Canadian Area Navigation Routes Q-902 and Q-811; Alaska" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0567)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2181. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of V-9, V-63, V-100, V-158, V-171, and T-325; and Revocation of V-127 in the Vicinity of Rockford, IL" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1100)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2182. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Routes; Northeast United States" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0360)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2183. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of V-175 and V-586; Establishment of T-397; and Revocation of V-424 in the Vicinity of Macon, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1071)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2184. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Restricted Area R-5306F; Cherry Point, NC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2019-0111)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2185. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airspace Designations; Incorporation by Reference" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0648)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2186. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Route V-482; Alaska" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-0544)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2187. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Gulkana, AK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0275)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2188. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Cape Girardeau, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0003)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2189. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D and Class E Airspace and Removal of Class E Airspace; Kodiak, AK" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0226)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2190. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment and Establishment of Class E Airspace; York, PA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0119)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2191. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment and Modification of Class E Airspace; Williston Basin, ND" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0292)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2192. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Class E Airspace; Mineola, TX" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0002)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2193. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Class E Airspace; Standish, MI" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0277)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2194. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Sioux City, IA CORRECTION" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0176)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9,

2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2195. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and E Airspace; Savannah, GA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0328)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2196. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and E Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Waco, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0413)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2197. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Columbus, OH” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0385)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2198. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class D and E Airspace, Revocation of Class E Airspace, and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Carbondale and Marion, IL” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0387)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2199. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-437; Northeastern United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1081)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2200. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-20; Northeastern United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1147)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2201. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-322, T-392, T-403, and T-403 and T-405; Central United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0054)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2202. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-34; Northeastern United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1155)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2203. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Route Q-29; Northeastern United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-1147)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2204. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment and Amendment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Northeast Corridor Atlantic Coast Routes; Northeastern United States” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0250)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2205. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Class E Airspace; Saratoga, WY” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0274)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 10, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2206. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Missoula, MT” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0207)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2207. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Monhegan Island, ME” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2020-1156)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2208. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establishment of Class E Airspace; Crooked Creek, AK” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0004)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2209. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Bar Harbor, ME” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0295)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2210. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Establish-

ment of Class E Airspace; Craig, AK” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0081)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 9, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2211. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Hondo, TX” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0386)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2212. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Massena, NY” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0355)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2213. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Eveleth, MN” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0417)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2214. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Muscle Shoals, AL” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0075)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2215. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Tuscaloosa, AL” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0171)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2216. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Scott City, KS” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0159)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2217. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pocahtontas, IA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2021-0278)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 13, 2021; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first

and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2852. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2853. A bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. KING):

S. 2854. A bill to allow for the transfer and redemption of abandoned savings bonds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 2855. A bill to extend authorization for livestock mandatory reporting; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 2856. A bill to regulate tax return preparers and refund anticipation payment arrangements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 2857. A bill to prohibit any Federal agency from requiring financial institutions to report on the financial transactions of their customers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2858. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts, to award grants for arts and creative workforce programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2859. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to clarify the use of certain taxes and revenues; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 2860. A bill to prohibit mandatory or compulsory checkoff programs; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2861. A bill to prohibit certain practices relating to certain commodity promotion programs, to require greater transparency by those programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2862. A bill to prohibit the National Archives and Records Administration from including content warnings alongside founding documents of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BURR, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2863. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Taliban and persons assisting the Taliban in Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2864. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to submit to Congress a report on virtual currencies and global competitiveness; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2865. A bill to improve the unemployment insurance program; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. Res. 387. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps and commending the volunteers who have dedicated their lives to making a difference in the world; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 150

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 150, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the inclusion of certain audio-only diagnoses in the determination of risk adjustment for Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 172

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 172, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

S. 212

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 212, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female

telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 780

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 780, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Puerto Rico into the Union.

S. 1156

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1156, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a refundable adoption tax credit.

S. 1210

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1210, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 1362

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1362, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 2011

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2011, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the contributions of all those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to provide for the coverage of medically necessary food and vitamins and individual amino acids for digestive and inherited metabolic disorder under Federal health programs and private health insurance, to ensure State and Federal protection for

existing coverage, and for other purposes.

S. 2086

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2086, a bill to improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 2456

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2456, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to increase diversity of ownership in the broadcasting industry, and for other purposes.

S. 2582

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2582, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the residential energy efficient property credit and energy credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2588

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2588, a bill to study the extent to which individuals are more at risk of maternal mortality or severe maternal morbidity as a result of being a victim of intimate partner violence, and for other purposes.

S. 2759

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2759, a bill to restore honor to certain previously discharged members of the Armed Forces.

S. 2780

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2780, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to prohibit certain adverse personnel actions taken against members of the Armed Forces based on declining the COVID-19 vaccine.

S. 2789

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.

2789, a bill making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 2798

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2798, a bill to amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 338

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 338, a resolution designating September 2021 as National Democracy Month as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 374

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 374, a resolution designating the week of September 19 through September 25, 2021, as "National Estuaries Week".

S. RES. 381

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 381, a resolution proclaiming the week of September 20 through September 24, 2021, to be "National Clean Energy Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 2857. A bill to prohibit any Federal agency from requiring financial institutions to report on the financial transactions of their customers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, you know, these days, information is only a few clicks away on your computer, and there is more information to be consumed than there are hours in the day. It is information overload, and it is overwhelming to sift through all the noise. But no matter the narrative being pushed, one thing remains: the facts. The facts don't lie. It is information overload.

The facts tell the story better than anyone. Facts take many forms and

play out in many ways. They are the impacts of decisions made and actions taken, whether we like it or not. But it doesn't take long for anyone to see this fact: The decisions coming out of the White House have followed one overall thought, one guiding ideology. It is not a unifying ideology that protects the freedoms and liberties we hold dear as Americans. It doesn't safeguard the values of our country or promote a vision for a brighter tomorrow and a more prosperous nation for future generations. It is a Big Government, socialist ideology. It is a vision of transformation. It is a strategy of undoing everything done by the previous administration even if those policies were successful.

Since President Biden's inauguration, every executive order, every regulatory rollback, and every message of so-called unity we were once promised has been in the spirit of doing the opposite of the previous administration, with an emphasis on the "woke" transformation of America's founding principles. "But not Trump" is not a strategy. It is not a policy stance. It is a reactionary and misguided posture that has plunged our Nation into domestic and international disarray.

It is a backward approach to implementing an agenda to transform the culture and the values of America, and we are seeing the on-the-ground effects of this approach in our communities, at our borders, and abroad.

When the singular driving force of your Presidency is simply being the opposite of your predecessor, our country faces the consequences of that decision. We are facing crises that were preventable, crises that are a direct result of policy decisions. This is an uncomfortable and inconvenient fact for President Biden, and Democrats don't seem too interested in the facts about the consequences of this administration's decision, either.

So let me lay them out. Here are some facts. The Biden administration inherited a conditions-based withdrawal strategy on Afghanistan. The idea was that we will have a withdrawal of forces that kept some boots on the ground to maintain stability and limit chaos and, importantly, preserve the progress our troops had made. Instead of continuing this conditions-based approach that would protect our servicemembers, allies, and innocent civilians, President Biden came up with a new plan, one he thought would make for better headlines, rather than listening to our commanders on the ground.

President Trump's plan was to roll people out strategically and maintain our assets to prevent attacks on the United States in the future. The plan certainly did not involve leaving American citizens behind. Instead, President Biden's decision left chaos in its wake. His decision left our troops vulnerable and resulted in the death of 13—13—U.S. servicemembers. The average age of these servicemembers was 22 years old.

His decision has disrespected the sacrifices of more than 800,000 U.S. veterans who bravely served during the War on Terror. His decision gave the Taliban their greatest victory to date and made them one of the top 10 most well-equipped militaries in the world, funded by the hard-working taxpayers of this country. His decision abandoned innocent Americans in a country governed by radical terrorists, and it is clear that he ignored the best military advice given to him by his top commanders and ordered our troops to put down their weapons and retreat.

President Biden's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan this way gave the Taliban everything they wanted: control of the region, our own weapons, and, ultimately, a breeding ground for terrorism. The fact of the matter is, our country will be facing the consequences of President Biden's decision for decades—for decades to come.

Our country was safer for the past 20 years thanks to the bravest fighting forces in the world, our men and women in uniform. Counterterrorism is still necessary, but we just made it harder on ourselves by not having ground forces and by closing Bagram Airfield.

The myth from the White House is that our country had no choice but that we were beholden to a deal made before January 20. But the policy decisions made by President Biden emboldened the Taliban, endangered Americans, and encouraged our adversaries.

Tomorrow, the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold the first open hearing—hopefully, one of many—to review President Biden's decision and what caused our time in Afghanistan to conclude the way it did. The American people deserve facts, and I and the rest of our delegation will not rest until we have answers from the people involved.

From abroad to right here at our own southwest border, we are witnessing the disastrous effects of the Biden Presidency play out in epic proportions. The numbers do not lie.

Fact: In July and August, apprehensions at the southern border surpassed 200,000 each month. That is quadruple the amount from this time last year.

Fact: We have seen recordbreaking numbers of illegal immigrants at our southwest border from the day President Biden was inaugurated. Over 1.3 million people have been apprehended trying to illegally cross our southwest border, and that is only the ones we know of. There are hundreds of thousands more getting into our country.

And fact: All of this is a direct result of President Biden's open border policies, a reversal from those of the previous administration.

This is a prime example of the Biden administration putting politics over policy. On January 20, his first day in office, President Biden announced a suspension of the border wall construction. Now billions of taxpayer dollars

are being spent to cover the cost of canceling the contracts the Federal Government entered into to build the wall. On the same day, he terminated the Migrant Protection Protocols policy.

In February, President Biden terminated the asylum cooperative agreements with the Northern Triangle countries established under President Trump. Doing away with these agreements has allowed caravans to travel thousands of miles through multiple countries to our southwest border, without any capacity support from our regional partners.

These decisions have directly contributed to the unprecedented numbers of illegal immigrant encounters we have seen, because with these decisions, President Biden signaled to the world that anyone wanting to leave their country for ours would be admitted to the United States of America.

After months of avoiding the word "crisis" to describe the border, President Biden recently said: "We will get the border under control." To even say he will "get the border under control" means he acknowledges that it is not under control.

Well, I guess that is one fact that we can all come to agreement on.

The facts that Democrats seem to want to ignore most are those that deal with our economy. The separation from fact to fiction for our friends across the aisle could not be starker than when it comes to the American economy.

It is a fact that inflation is sky high—as high as it has been since 2010. Despite rising inflation and increasing prices, the President is still marching forward with his vision of Big Government—a big government welfare State, enacted through the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spend spree. He wants to create a massive welfare State paid for by staggering—and I mean staggering—tax hikes that would destroy economic growth.

And the Democrats are his captive audience. President Biden's America is one where our businesses and job creators pay for all. That is not "pay your fair share." That is wealth distribution.

He is not interested in boosting the economy and helping Americans. He is interested in remaking the system with subsidies and entitlements—a welfare state to keep everyone beholden to the government—no work requirements, just complete government dependency.

Our country was founded on freedom. It was founded on opportunity—the opportunity to work hard and to achieve the American dream. That is what this country owes you, not a handout but a hand up.

The programs laid out in the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spend spree are a transparent effort to a woke transformation of the values and culture upon which our country was built. If that wasn't bad enough, they are going

to raise taxes to pay for them, picking from a menu of more than 30 new taxes.

Our businesses, small and large, create jobs and grow the economy. Increasing their taxes means they can't spend and invest in their own businesses. If they can't expand, they can't create more jobs. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Businesses will squeeze inward, cutting workers and wages.

A higher corporate tax rate isn't "paying their fair share." It is destroying the blue-collar jobs that have fueled the middle class.

Why would we ever take pride in the fact that our corporate tax rate is higher than China's? When did that become a worthy goal?

I have an answer for you: It is not. But the terrible proposals to offset the cost of this bill just keep on coming.

The Biden administration wants to require financial institutions to report account balances and transactions greater than \$600 made by Americans to the IRS, the Internal Revenue Service. Any transaction you make over \$600 will be reported to the IRS. That is every taxpayer in this country. Today, only transactions over \$10,000, which is a lot of money, are reported.

Yes, that is the same Agency with a long history of data security failures. Earlier this year, the confidential tax information of a number of prominent Americans leaked—surprisingly, leaked—from the IRS and was published in the press.

The Agency also has a history of singling out certain taxpayers for political purposes. You have a rent payment over \$600, planning to buy airplane tickets over \$600—how about a new hunting rifle? a wedding dress for your daughter? All of this—any transaction over \$600—would be sent to the IRS under President Biden's plan. This is Big Brother Government at its worst.

We are talking about routine financial transactions that Americans make every day. The IRS has no business monitoring these—none. The IRS is intrusive enough as it is. This is something Americans of all political stripes should agree on.

Not only would the IRS be looking over Americans' shoulders, but this would place a heavy burden on community banks and credit unions that play a key role in providing financial services to rural and minority communities. These financial institutions cannot afford to monitor and report all this data to the IRS. They can't afford it. It will put many of these folks out of business, destroying mainstream American communities that rely on all of them in the process.

But don't just take my word for it. The Independent Community Bankers of America's Minority Bank Advisory Council wrote:

Our primary concern is that the proposal would undermine the critical relationship of trust we foster within the communities we serve—communities prone to distrust of institutions and government agencies. We fear

that invasive and indiscriminate account reporting would undermine the policy priority of bringing more people into the banking system and may drive many of those in the system to leave.

I couldn't have said it better.

This is one of the most outrageous proposals coming from this administration—and there have been a lot of them over the last 9 months. This is like a shakedown squad coming around to try to get every single cent from you that they can.

So, today, I introduced a bill called the Protecting Financial Privacy Act that would proactively prohibit this. My bill prohibits any Federal Agency from creating, implementing, or administering a financial account information reporting regime that would require financial institutions or individuals to report data on financial transactions or account balances to the IRS in excess of what is already required by the Bank Secrecy Act. The last thing Americans want or need is Big Brother looking over their shoulders.

The President wants to run from the facts. He would rather hide behind them and point fingers. The facts, for him, don't fit. But it is time for the President to wake up. It is time to stop blaming President Trump for disasters that are clearly his own making. It is time to stop an entitlement state of our country that Americans don't want. It is time for the President to face the facts and listen to the American people. He cannot be allowed to deflect responsibility and attempt to distract the American people from crises that were predictable and preventable, especially when the facts couldn't be clearer.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 387—RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS AND COMMENDING THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR LIVES TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 387

Whereas the Peace Corps Act of 1961 was signed into law by President John F. Kennedy on September 22, 1961;

Whereas the Peace Corps' mission is to promote world peace and friendship by—

- (1) helping the people in interested countries to meet their need for trained workers;
- (2) helping to promote a better understanding of Americans by people in countries where volunteers have served; and
- (3) helping to promote a better understanding of such people by Americans;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers work to advance both international development and public diplomacy, with more than 240,000 Americans who have answered the call to service by cumulatively serving in 142 countries and providing more than 3,000,000,000 of service to our Nation and the world;

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers exemplify American values and grow trust and faith in the United States in developing countries by—

- (1) building connections with the people with whom they live and work; and
- (2) helping communities realize the full potential of their present assets and discover new opportunities;

Whereas returned Peace Corps volunteers enter the job market with—

- (1) the experience of working with limited resources and navigating bureaucratic institutions; and
- (2) proficiency in many languages and communication styles;

Whereas due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Peace Corps made the difficult decision, in early 2020, to temporarily suspend all volunteer missions and recall approximately 7,300 volunteers and trainees from their countries of service;

Whereas the Peace Corps and the broader Peace Corps community have utilized this temporary recall to deeply explore how the many ways in which the Peace Corps could be improved in its support of volunteers and its collaboration with the communities in which such volunteers are serving, including facilitating COVID-19 testing and the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines;

Whereas beginning in December 2021, the Peace Corps will gradually resume its volunteer missions abroad, beginning with missions located in parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Whereas Peace Corps volunteers play a significant role in implementing presidential initiatives at the local level, including training and deploying more than 800 specialized malaria prevention volunteers to serve in communities across Africa since 2011;

Whereas the Peace Corps, in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development, has generated an additional \$34,000,000 in local community and third party contributions through the Small Project Assistance Program in support of important development outcomes, including—

- (1) efforts to combat human trafficking;
- (2) enhanced civic engagement and public accountability;
- (3) improved maternal and children's health outcomes;
- (4) preventing the spread of malaria;
- (5) bolstered community resilience and preparedness to environmental disasters;

Whereas 42 percent of Peace Corps volunteers work in the education sector by—

- (1) increasing the English language competency of local students and teachers;
- (2) developing teaching materials and improving the teaching techniques of local teachers; or
- (3) assisting after-school programs, youth clubs, and the development of libraries;

Whereas the Peace Corps advances the principles of gender equality worldwide and maintains a volunteer force that is 65 percent female; and

Whereas the Peace Corps is integral to realizing United States' foreign policy, addressing critical global challenges that require United States' leadership, and advances our United States' national security interests: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) recognizes the 60th anniversary of the Peace Corps;
- (2) honors all of the volunteers who have dedicated their lives to address the serious global challenges of our time, including illiteracy, environmental degradation, food insecurity, and communicable diseases;

(3) commends the tireless service of the civil servants, recruiters, medical and security personnel, and in-country support staff that run the Peace Corps on a daily basis; and

(4) renews the United States' commitment—

(A) to promoting world peace and friendship; and

(B) to helping developing countries reach their development goals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3829. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3829. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2792, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 530C. AUTHORIZATION OF CLAIMS BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES THAT ARISE FROM SEX-RELATED OFFENSES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 163 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2733a the following new section:

“§ 2733b. Claims arising from sex-related offenses

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with this section and under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe under subsection (d), the Secretary may allow, settle, and pay a claim against the United States for personal injury or death of a claimant arising from—

“(1) a sex-related offense committed by a covered individual; and

“(2)(A) the negligent failure to prevent such sex-related offense; or

“(B) the negligent failure to investigate such sex-related offense.

“(b) REQUIREMENT FOR CLAIMS.—A claim may be allowed, settled, and paid under subsection (a) only if—

“(1) the claim is filed by the claimant who is the victim of the sex-related offense, or by an authorized representative on behalf of such claimant who is deceased or otherwise unable to file the claim due to incapacitation;

“(2) the claimant was a member of an armed force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department at the time of the sex-related offense;

“(3) the claim is presented to the Department in writing within two years after the claim accrues;

“(4) the claim is not allowed to be settled and paid under any other provision of law; and

“(5) the claim is substantiated as prescribed in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (d).

“(C) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.—(1) If the Secretary of Defense determines, pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary under subsection (d), that a claim under this section in excess of \$100,000 is meritorious, and the claim is otherwise payable under this section, the Secretary may pay the claimant \$100,000 and report any meritorious amount in excess of \$100,000 to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment under section 1304 of title 31.

“(2) Except as provided in paragraph (1), no claim may be paid under this section unless the amount tendered is accepted by the claimant in full satisfaction.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement this section.

“(2) Regulations prescribed by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Policies and procedures to ensure the timely, efficient, and effective processing and administration of claims under this section, including—

“(i) the filing, receipt, investigation, and evaluation of a claim;

“(ii) the negotiation, settlement, and payment of a claim; and

“(iii) such other matters relating to the processing and administration of a claim, including an administrative appeals process, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(B) A process through which any claimant who pursues an administrative appeal of a claim will be provided with an opportunity to participate in a live hearing regarding such appeal, which may be attended by the claimant in-person or remotely through electronic means.

“(C) Uniform standards consistent with generally accepted standards used in a majority of States in adjudicating claims under chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims Act’) to be applied to the evaluation, settlement, and payment of claims under this section without regard to the place of occurrence of the sex-related offense giving rise to the claim or the military department of the covered individual, and without regard to foreign law in the case of claims arising in foreign countries, including uniform standards to be applied to determinations with respect to—

“(i) whether an act or omission by a covered individual was negligent or wrongful, considering the specific facts and circumstances;

“(ii) whether the personal injury or death of the claimant was caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission of a covered individual;

“(iii) requirements relating to proof of duty, breach of duty, and causation resulting in compensable injury or loss, subject to such exclusions as may be established by the Secretary of Defense; and

“(iv) calculation of damages, except that any standard establishing a maximum limit on noneconomic damages may not limit such damages to less than \$800,000.

“(D) A requirement that any maximum limit on noneconomic damages shall be not less than \$800,000.

“(E) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(3) In order to implement expeditiously the provisions of this section, the Secretary may prescribe the regulations under this subsection—

“(A) by prescribing an interim final rule; and

“(B) not later than one year after prescribing such interim final rule and considering public comments with respect to such

interim final rule, by prescribing a final rule.

“(e) LIMITATIONS ON ATTORNEY FEES.—(1) No attorney shall charge, demand, receive, or collect for services rendered, fees in excess of 20 percent of any claim paid pursuant to this section.

“(2) Any attorney who charges, demands, receives, or collects for services rendered in connection with a claim under this section any amount in excess of the amount allowed under paragraph (1), if recovery be had, shall be fined not more than \$2,000, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

“(3) The United States shall not be liable for any attorney fees of a claimant under this section.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually until 2026, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report—

“(1) indicating the number of claims processed under this section;

“(2) indicating the resolution of each such claim; and

“(3) describing any other information that may enhance the effectiveness of the claims process under this section.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means a member of the armed forces or an employee of the Department of Defense.

“(2) The term ‘sex-related offense’ has the meaning given that term in section 1044e(h) of this title.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 163 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2733a the following new item:

“2733b. Claims arising from sex-related offenses.”.

(b) INTERIM BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the development of regulations under section 2733b(d) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2735 of such title is amended by inserting “2733b,” after “2733a.”.

(2) Section 1304(a)(3)(D) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “2733b,” after “2733a.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITION PROVISION.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any claim filed under section 2733b of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1), on or after January 1, 2022.

(2) TRANSITION.—Any claim filed in calendar year 2021 shall be deemed to be filed within the time period specified in section 2733b(b)(2) of such title, as so added, if it is filed within three years after it accrues.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 116-260, on behalf of the Majority Leader of the Senate, appoints the following individual as a member of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Advisory Council: Crystal Peoples Stokes of New York.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that

when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, September 28; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Donfried nomination, with the time until 11:30 a.m. equally divided prior to a vote on the nomination; further, that following the disposition of the Donfried nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Medina nomination and immediately recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed on Tuesday, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. For the information of Senators, the first rollcall on the confirmation of the Donfried nomination will be at 11:30 a.m.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SULLIVAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

EXTENDING GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND DELIVERING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to talk about transparency, and I want to talk about the need for transparency here in the U.S. Senate more than ever.

The House and the Senate are moving with breakneck speed to pass one of the biggest, most reckless spending social bills in U.S. history, over \$3½ trillion—a spending spree that will be the largest in a generation—which will include the largest tax hike that we have seen in peacetime and something that the majority leader himself has called the largest transformation in a generation.

Make no mistake. This is trying to transform America—cradle to grave socialism. Don't take my word for it. Here is the way the New York Times described this \$3½ trillion reckless spending bill from the House coming to the Senate. It is legislation that would touch virtually every American's life from conception to age and infirmity, from cradle to grave. That is the New York Times. In other words, the Federal Government will be involved in all facets of every single American life, from birth to death—one of the biggest

tax-and-spend programs certainly since President Johnson's Great Society or President Roosevelt's New Deal.

With that involvement of our government will come higher taxes, taxes on smaller businesses, taxes on the middle class, and, yes, we believe our Senate colleagues are planning a tax cut for those who live in the big cities, known as the "Blue State Bailout." The chairman of the Budget Committee, who is crafting this bill, Senator SANDERS, who has called himself "a proud socialist," is going to have tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires in this legislation.

So one would think that a bill of this magnitude, this size, this transformational an impact on every single American, would be a bill that the U.S. Senate, the so-called most deliberative body in the world, would actually hold one hearing on—just one—and would actually hold a markup or two in the different committees. Right now, our Democratic colleagues, with no explanation, are not planning on one hearing or one markup in any committee—none. As, I think, anybody who knows anything about this body knows, that is unprecedented.

The House rushed, no doubt. They have already marked up this legislation, way too fast, but, at least, they allowed for amendments. At least, they debated it.

When Republicans controlled the Congress in 2017, with regard to the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which went through reconciliation, we held numerous hearings in Senate committees. We had markups. We debated amendments. But for this bill— $3\frac{1}{2}$ trillion—right now, our colleagues are not going to do any of that.

Of course, the media has given them a free pass. Nothing. The most deliberative body in the world, the transformational bill of a generation, the Green New Deal and all the other socialist ideas, and we are not going to have one hearing, not going to have one markup in one committee.

What is going on? Well, I would love it if the majority leader or any other Senate Democrat would come down to the Senate floor and explain to the American people why. Why aren't we doing that? No transparency?

So I have a theory, because we are not going to hear from the majority leader or any of my other colleagues. I would love to hear them.

Come on down. Explain why we are not having one hearing on the biggest bill in a generation— $3\frac{1}{2}$ trillion.

Here is my theory. There are several reasons why they don't want the public to see a hearing or a markup relating to this bill.

First and foremost, they don't want to have to defend what is in it. They don't want the public, who is seeing skyrocketing prices at the pump, at the grocery store, seeing all the increases in prices across our country, to see the specifics of a bill that are clearly going to supercharge more inflation.

They don't want to have to defend a bill that will have the largest tax increase in American history. They don't want to have to defend a bill or show the American people tax rates on small businesses that will be bigger than anything in the European Union or in communist China, or hundreds of billions to bail out health insurers or \$200 million for the Speaker's pet project in the Presidio Park in San Francisco or \$5 billion for an environmental justice tax credit for universities, whatever the heck that is. Or how about \$100 billion for amnesty for 10 million illegal immigrants, making them eligible for Federal benefits? They don't want to have to defend that. They don't want to have to debate that. These are just a few core elements of the bill as we know it. As I mentioned, there are also the tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires in big cities.

And they don't want to have to talk about the debt ceiling that my colleagues are trying to raise so they can continue their trillion dollars of reckless spending. The majority leader just mentioned that. He doesn't mention what is in the bill, won't have hearings about what is in the bill, won't have markups for the American people to see.

And on the debt ceiling, you know, just last month, 45 of my Senate Republican colleagues and I signed a letter, putting our colleagues on the other side of the aisle on notice that we will not vote to increase the debt limit if they continued down this reckless path. And the reason is simple: My Democratic colleagues are content to go it alone and pass their irresponsible $\$3\frac{1}{2}$ trillion socialist spending spree with no hearings, no markup, no nothing, with just Democratic input, which is all we have.

Again, when we were going through our budget reconciliation process, we took amendments, we debated them, and we voted on them. They are not doing that.

If they are doing this solely by themselves, with no transparency, then our Democratic friends should be solely responsible for raising the debt ceiling to accommodate it. They control all branches of the government. The majority leader clearly knows they could fix that right now. They are creating their own crisis, and they can solve it.

So, once again, this $\$3\frac{1}{2}$ trillion bill is being rushed. What is another reason? I think they are getting a little nervous that if you had a markup, say, in the Budget Committee, you would see that the author of the bill, the chairman of the Budget Committee, is promoting a socialist agenda that he is proud of because he is actually an avowed socialist.

Now, I am not trying to insult anyone. This is what he calls himself.

So I think my Democratic colleagues get a little nervous that a bill authored by a socialist in the Senate would have to be defended. But, again, no hearings, no markup, and I know a lot of my

Democratic colleagues are uncomfortable with this. They are uncomfortable with the bill. They are uncomfortable with the lack of transparency, but they are not calling for transparency. They are saying: Let's just move this as quickly as possible so nobody in America can see it.

So far, they are being successful, but I think we need to put this into context. Here is a piece from the Wall Street Journal from last week, where it talked about putting this rush job on the reckless spending bill from the majority leader and the Speaker of the House in historic context. It said:

FDR's New Deal programs were passed incrementally over two Presidential terms with overwhelming Democratic majorities. Democrats created the Great Society over two years, with supermajorities under President Johnson. ObamaCare was hashed out over nine months before Democrats enacted it into law with 56 votes in the Senate. The 2017 GOP tax reform bill—

as I just mentioned—

was debated for months, and its principles for years before Congress voted and marked it up.

Now with merely 50 Democrats in the Senate—

fifty-fifty here—

and a five-Member House majority, Democrats are planning to rush through the biggest tax and spending increase in half a century—

With not one hearing in the U.S. Senate, without one markup in any committee.

There is no mandate for this, but for most of my colleagues, the quicker the better to move on. Don't look, America. Don't look that the author of this bill is actually a socialist, because it is socialism.

Now, this rush job is not good for the American people. So here is a better idea, and it comes from a Senate Democrat, my colleague Senator MANCHIN. A couple of weeks ago, he very wisely called for a "strategic pause."

In an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal he said that there is another reason for a strategic pause.

Now I am quoting Senator MANCHIN:

We must allow for a complete reporting and analysis of the implications a multitricillion-dollar bill will have for this generation and the next. Such a strategic pause will allow every member of Congress to use the transparent committee process to debate: What should we fund, and what can we simply not afford?

That is Senator MANCHIN. His op-ed also said that amid the inflation that we are seeing, debt and the inevitability of future crises, Congress needs to take a strategic pause on this $\$3\frac{1}{2}$ trillion reckless spending spree.

So one of my Democratic colleagues is wisely calling for what we all know we need here, which is the precedent of this body, the most deliberative body in the world—a pause, hearings, markups so the American people can see what is actually in this.

It sounds like that is not going to happen, and I would love it if any of my Democratic colleagues would come

to the floor and tell the American people why.

We can and should have debates about our respective visions for our great country.

No one should be afraid of looking closely at this \$3½ trillion monstrosity. Let's have a debate about it. Let's debate the massive increases in taxes, the vast expansion of entitlements, the cradle-to-grave socialism that certain Democrats are proposing for every individual American's life.

The American people deserve this. My constituents back home in Alaska certainly would welcome such a debate, but the American people deserve this.

Why are my colleagues afraid to debate and have hearings and a markup on this massive legislation? It is the American people's money, after all, that will pay for this transformational, socialist bill, and it is their lives that will be impacted and upended if this reckless, rushed bill becomes law.

So let's do this. Let's hit a strategic pause, as Senator MANCHIN asked for.

Let's pry this bill open, hold hearings, and lay out our visions for our country. Let's have a debate: More taxes or freedom? Socialism versus market capitalism. Do we want a fundamental transformation, as the majority leader and the budget chairman have asked for, or do we want common-sense legislation that helps working men and women in our country achieve their dreams?

I am hopeful that the majority leader will agree with Senator MANCHIN and do what is right for the American people: Hit a pause, hold hearings, and hold markups before he makes a mockery of the phrase "the world's most deliberative body," which he is now trying to do with this rushed and reckless spending bill.

GABBY PETITO AND FEMICIDE

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, the tragic story of 22-year-old Gabby Petito, whose body was recently found at the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, has captured the attention of our Nation. It is an awful story that is still playing out. We pray for her parents and her loved ones, and we hope that they soon will receive justice.

As we watch the story unfold, we empathize with her family and her friends, and we mourn with them, and we think about how this horrible crime hurts all of them, their neighbors, our fellow citizens, the result of such a brutal murder. We think of our daughters and think of the daughters of others, all of our Nation's daughters. And all of this reminds some of us of another terrible tragedy in America, and it is this: Native and indigenous women in America are murdered and sexually assaulted at rates as high as 10 times the national average. Think about that. Horrendous.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that murder is the third leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native women. However, this issue rarely, if ever, receives much coverage or awareness. But awareness often results in additional resources—something that has unfortunately been lacking in our criminal justice system on this issue, the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women.

According to the FBI's National Crime Information Center, there are roughly 1,500 unsolved cases of missing and murdered indigenous women in America—1,500. Alaska has about 300 of these unsolved cases. Experts think there are many more such cases that

don't make it into the Federal database.

There has been some progress. Under the previous administration, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, Tara Sweeney, who did such a great job, began an initiative throughout the Federal Government called Operation Lady Justice, the whole point of which was to bring light to this horrible issue of missing and murdered indigenous women, to bring justice and hope and closure to their families. Operation Lady Justice, the task force, has opened up numerous offices across America, including one in Alaska. Last year, we in a bipartisan way here in the Senate passed Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act to address the crisis of missing, murdered, and trafficked indigenous women in our country. Progress is being made, but we need to continue to keep this issue front and center.

As we pray for the family of Gabby Petito, we also offer our thoughts and prayers to the families of these missing and murdered indigenous Americans and commit to continue to focus on all of these issues to make our country a better place.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 10 a.m.